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The Ultimate Weapon the Combat Infantryman



THE 164TH INFANTRY NEWS

Vol. 49, No. 3

Following 164th History.....

October, 2008

Sixty-Five Years Since Bougainville

On 13 October 1942, the 164th Infantry Regiment landed on the beach at Guadalcanal, to become the first U.S. Army unit to offensively engage the enemy -- in either theatre -- during World War II.

After the decisive victory on Guadalcanal, the Americal Division was moved to the Fiji Islands for training, rest, and recovery from March to November 1943.

On 25 Nov 43, the alert went to the Americal Division. Again, the 164th was the first Americal unit scheduled to make a landing. The "experienced jungle fighters" of the 164th landed at Empress Augusta Bay, Bougainville, Christmas Day 1943...

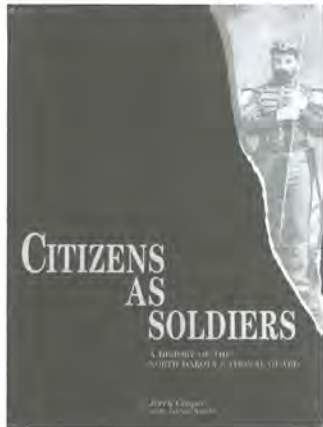
"Point Man"
by Doug Burtell

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944



164th On Bougainville

From "*Citizens as Soldiers*"



They positioned the guns to defend against invasion in the areas General Hyakutake and his superior, General Hitoshi Imamura, believed that the Americans would land. They were both wrong. ... When the 31st Task Force, which included the 3rd Marine Division and the 37th Infantry Division came ashore at Empress Augusta Bay...they met only slight resistance from the Japanese [who] had expected the Americans to land about sixty miles to the southeast. General Hyakutake remained convinced that the main invasion would take place elsewhere and the Americans expanded the perimeter ...until they controlled an area sufficiently large for the construction of three airstrips.

Having other plans for the 3rd Marine Division, Admiral Halsey decided to call in the Americal Division to replace it ...Once again, the 164th was to be the first unit scheduled to make the landing, and it began loading on the assigned transports on 10 Dec 43. Leaving the relative peace and security of the Fijis nine days later, the Regiment reached Bougainville on Christmas Day. It spent the first day on the island preparing to take over perimeter positions held by the 9th Marine Reg't. By this time, Gen. Hyakutake knew that the landing at Empress Augusta Bay was the main American operation.

Shortly after the 164th took up its perimeter position, it began to send patrols to gather as much intelligence about the enemy as possible. The Regiment also needed to fix exact positions of hills, mountains, rivers, and valleys because of [the inaccuracy of existing] maps ...When 164 patrol leaders flew in light aircraft to gauge the terrain they'd have to traverse, they also located some strong enemy positions and noticed increasing movement on the part of the Japanese... General Hodge, the new commander of the Americal Division [still needed to know] where the main body of Japanese was, its strength, and its plans of attack [so] he offered the troops incentives to bring in Japanese prisoners by issuing the following memorandum: "The Division Commander will give one bottle of Scotch liquor and one case of beer for each of the first six prisoners captured." Additional offers raise the award for the first prisoner to three bottles of Scotch. One bottle of Scotch will also be given for the first officer prisoner, regardless of whether or not he comes within the first six.



NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

Bougainville, the top rung in the "Solomons' ladder" and also the largest of this group of islands, had many of the geographical features of Guadalcanal, although it was larger, and had higher mountains and ridges, and, if possible, denser jungles and rain forests. It also had two large, active volcanoes. The establishment of an air base on this island was an essential part of Operation Cartwheel, designed to reduce the Japanese base at Rabaul, the center of operations for the whole South Pacific. If the Americans could establish and protect an area on Bougainville large enough for bombers and fighters to attack Rabaul [300 miles away] continuously, Japanese control of the Solomons would be in great jeopardy.

Realizing this, the Japanese, as early as July 1943, had begun to reinforce the island with large amounts of artillery and heavy mortars. With no roads, as such, on Bougainville, the Japanese could move the heavy guns by truck only a very short distance. Then they had to pull the guns, usually by sheer manpower, up the trails that formed the only arteries of transportation.

Elements of the 164th Infantry march along Engineer-built Major Fissell Highway on Bougainville, en route to forward positions to relieve units of the 3d Marine Division

We landed Christmas Day 1943. Some way to celebrate. Home - sick too.

Photo & written comment courtesy John Paulson, Co F, from his copy of *Under the Southern Cross*



Co B's W. Wayne McDowell

164th On Bougainville

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

Gen Hodge's memo stipulated that the prisoners must be in good enough physical condition to withstand interrogation and that the offer included only one award per prisoner. Sharers in capture would share in rewards. Although the general was offering an attractive prize, most soldiers in the South Pacific had misgivings about taking Japanese as prisoners of war.

Many stories, probably supported by a few incidents, told of how Japanese soldiers, carrying a white flag of surrender, approached American troops only to lob a hand grenade at them. When two or more Japanese surrendered, one might have a light machine gun strapped to his back; when near the Americans, he would bend over so the other could begin firing. The general rule was not to capture a Japanese soldier unless he was absolutely harmless, a situation seldom encountered. Generals might want prisoners for the information they could give, but the front-line soldier had to take the risks. While dead Japanese soldiers told no tales, they also could not harm you.



John Reed Hodge (1893 -1963) served in World War I in France & Luxembourg. In WWII, Hodge commanded the Americal Division, was promoted to General during the Philippines Campaign in 1944, served in Okinawa in 1945, and became commanding general (CG) of the XXIV Corps of the US Tenth Army. From 1945-48, Hodge was the military governor of South Korea. He was the CG receiving the surrender of all Japanese troops in Korea south of the 38th parallel. In 1950, he was made CG, 3rd US Army. He retired in 1953. wikipedia.com

On 30 Jan 44, ten days after the general's memo, men of the Americal brought in a Japanese prisoner who told intelligence officers that the Japanese were preparing for a major strike in early March and that they had supplies to sustain them only through that month. Shortly thereafter, papers found on a dead officer revealed the time and place of the attack in such detail that the Americans knew as much about the plans as did the Japanese. Americans stepped up their reconnaissance patrols and called for fire whenever enemy troops and guns were located, forcing the Japanese to abandon one of their primary trails.

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The Americans made good use of the time available before the anticipated assault by strengthening their positions. Flanked on the left by the 145th Regiment of the 37th Division and on the right by the 182nd of the Americal, the 164th was almost in the middle of the perimeter, a likely spot for an attack, even though the 164th occupied the available high ground of this sector. Clearing fields of fire 50 yards or deeper and stringing double apron wire in their front, the North Dakotans also set booby traps at likely areas of entry and prepared fire pots of sand and gasoline to give illumination at night. Contrary to the official Table of Equipment, each squad had two Browning Automatic Rifles for additional firepower. If the Japanese were looking for trouble, the position of the 164th was a good place to find it.....



Bougainville Island is 3518 square miles, population 175,000. It is part of Papua New Guinea, but has been seeking independence. Geographically, Bougainville is included in the chain of islands known as the "Northern" Solomon Islands in Melanesia.



COMMAND OF THE TOROKINA PERIMETER passed from Maj Gen Roy S. Geiger (right) to Maj Gen Oscar W. Griswold, USA, on 15 December 1943, as XIV Corps began relief of the 1st Marine Amphibious Corps.

<http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USMC/USMC-M-NSols/USMC-M-NSol-3.html#cn31>

164th On Bougainville

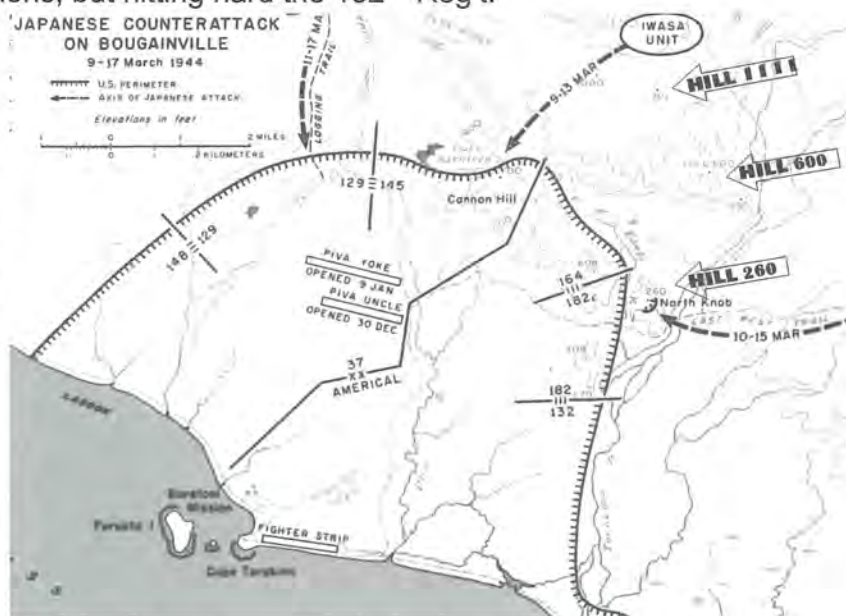
From "*Citizens as Soldiers (cont)*"

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

Once again, General Hyakutake devised a grand strategy--resembling the ill-fated "divide and conquer" plan that he had used for the attempted recapture of Guadalcanal--this time to drive the Americans from Bougainville. The Japanese navy was no longer a prominent force, and air support was ineffective. He planned to have his artillery destroy the 3 airstrips to negate any American air advantage and resupply. He also arranged an amphibious landing east of the American perimeter, hoping to catch the Americans off guard, confuse them, and drive them into artillery range. His artillery consisted of four 150mm, two 105mm, and over one hundred fifty 77mm guns, each with about 300 rounds of ammunition. His army consisted of just over 15,000 exhausted, sick, and demoralized men, and he diminished their effectiveness by dividing them into three sections, each to strike from a different direction and separated from the others by about 2 miles. And...he had underestimated the American force at 30,000 when it was actually twice that large.

On 8 March 1944, the Japanese attacked. Concentrating on the bomber strips, their artillery pounded that general area but often gave away their positions which were then targeted by American bombers and artillery. After the Japanese found the range of the airstrips, however, all except 6 American planes left for safety in New Georgia. Japanese ground forces began their 3-pronged assault on the American perimeter, missing the 164th positions, but hitting hard the 182nd Reg't.

One particular area of intense combat was Hill 260, shaped like an hourglass and crowned by a huge tree some 150 feet tall that was an excellent observation post (OP). It was the site of heavy fighting, and the newly formed **flame thrower platoon** and **Co G** of the 164th were temporarily assigned to the 182nd for support. The hill was too steep for a tank assault, so a tunnel was dug toward the tree and many gallons of gas were poured into an unoccupied enemy pillbox discovered in the roots. Flame-throwers ignited the tree as mortars and artillery pounded the area as patrols harassed the enemy lines. The Japanese withdrew, and eventually the tree crashed down. The provisional flame thrower platoon suffered fifteen casualties in the effort, which was about 1/3 of its strength.



By the end of March 1944, the Japanese attack had spent itself, and the Americans switched from a defensive role to active pursuit of the enemy to eliminate all resistance on Bougainville. There were plenty of tanks on the island but the terrain did not permit their use, and air reconnaissance was not effective because of the heavy jungle cover. The new tactics depended heavily on infantry and artillery.

General Hyakutake still held 6 airfields on Bougainville, and although they had been bombed into disrepair, he awaited supplies and reinforcements from Rabaul. Still hoping to control the island, he established strongholds at key positions along the native trails. Companies of the 164th were tasked with searching for such "roadblocks" and eliminating the threat. On 1 April 1944, a Japanese prisoner led a



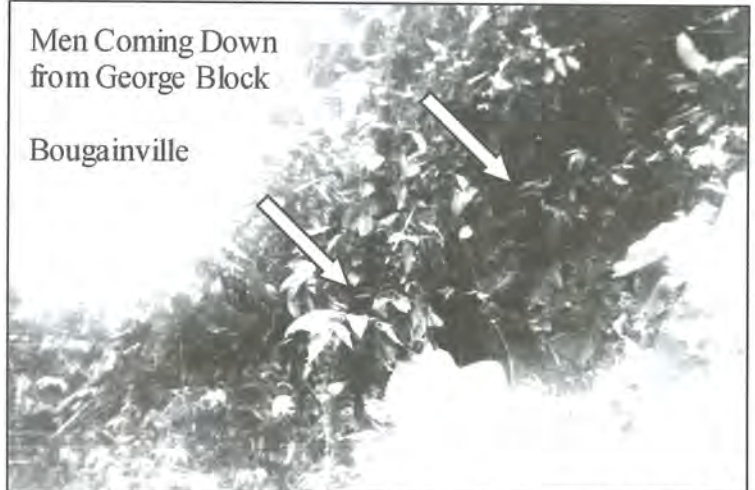
Miles Shelley, Co F

patrol from Company F to areas of interest. Using branches and vines to pull themselves up the slippery terrain, they were close to reaching the top of the highest ridge in the area, which commanded a view in many directions. Miles Shelley and Leonard Drabus volunteered to recon the area. Sgt Shelley was hit almost immediately, and distinguished himself by directing the rifle, machinegun, and mortar fire of his comrades toward Japanese who were invisible within the heavy foliage. He urged his unit to leave him behind as an artillery strike was pending, and earned a posthumous Distinguished Service Cross for his sacrifice. Four other men from Co F were seriously wounded in the firefight. The only way to get them down the long, steep, rugged mountainside was to form a human conveyor belt: men lined up on each side of the slippery trail, passing the litters along, then leapfrogging down the slope to continue the line through the night, arriving at the battalion aid station by mid morning with their 4 wounded.

164th On Bougainville

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

During April and May 1944, the 164th patrols often came upon abandoned artillery and ammunition dumps. In the first week of April, Company K destroyed 6 artillery emplacements and nearly 500 rounds of ammo (mostly 77mm). Patrols ranged from platoon to company size in strength, and included a forward artillery observer, native guides, and pack carriers. Besides patrolling, the 164th set up ambushes and roadblocks, letting the enemy come to them. It was noted that the Japanese on Bougainville did not have the aggressive fighting spirit displayed on Guadalcanal and seemed content to remain behind their defenses. In August 1944, the new divisional Intelligence & Reconnaissance (I&R) Platoon discovered many Japanese living in grass huts, and called for help in attacking the area. This supporting task fell to the men of the 164th **Anti-tank Co**, which was, by then, used as a line unit since there were no enemy tanks left on the island. By autumn 1944, Japanese resistance consisted mainly of small, isolated groups with little means or will to carry on the struggle. Reinforcement was out of the question, since the Japanese had bigger problems elsewhere. Less than half of the 164th Regiment was engaged in patrols; the rest was involved training exercises and weapons practice at the range.



Thirty-five members of the 164th had been killed in action and 158 wounded during the one year campaign on Bougainville. In November 1944, the 164th received orders to begin extensive training for offensive combat "elsewhere in the Pacific area". On 18 December, after receiving orders to prepare for "shore to shore movement", all units began to create equipment for departure. On 4 January 1945, the 164th began embarking on vessels anchored in Empress Augusta Bay. The transports departed on 8-10 Jan and rendezvoused in Hollandia, New Guinea, to form a convoy that would take them to new battles on **Leyte, Philippines**.

Photos on this page are from the George Isenberg collection



Notes from the 82nd Chemical Mortar Battalion: 17 Jul 44-1 Aug 44. Two squads with two 4.2" mortars of the 1st platoon, were placed under operational control of the Americal Division, for support of the **164th Inf.** in the upper Laruma Valley. Harassing and support missions were fired on 17 July from the Numa Numa Trail roadblock resulting in the occupation of enemy installations in the vicinity of Igiaru and Magerikopia. A total of 1547 rounds of HE and 41 rounds of WP were expended. On 22 July, two 4.2" mortars were added to the section. On 24 July, two 4.2" mortars were moved 250 yards up the river and from 24 July to 1 August, harassing fire was directed on Igiaru Village and on D Roadblock. The total number of rounds expended was 186 rounds HE and 4 rounds WP. 1 Aug 44-14 Aug 44. (1) Harassing missions were fired in support of the **164th Inf.** repelling an enemy counterattack and regaining positions previously seized by the enemy. A total of 2397 rounds HE and 79 rounds WP were fired. 14 Aug 44-23 Aug 44. (2) Harassing and support missions were fired from 14 Aug to 23 Aug 44. A total of 2034 rounds HE and 79 rounds WP were expended. Relieved from operational control of the Americal Division on 23 August and returned to base camp. <http://www.4point2.org/hist-82-p2.htm> [by 1st Lt John L. (Jack) Butler]

THE BOUGAINVILLE CAMPAIGN¹

Geography: Bougainville Island is in the northernmost part of the Solomon Islands group, lying between latitudes 5°28' S. and 5°51' S. It is approximately 130 miles long with an average width of 30 miles. It is a tropical island of volcanic origin with a backbone of rugged mountain ranges. Behind the Empress Augusta Bay sector, the Crown Prince Range rises to a height of 6,560 feet with an active volcano, Mount Bagana. The Empress Augusta Bay and Torokina Point sectors present a low sandy shoreline with heavy surf. The south shore of this island has very little coral, and behind the shoreline a sandy alluvial plain rises gently to the foothills of the Crown Prince Range, about 4,000 yards inland. Near the shore are some lagoons and in the region of the Torokina River extensive swamps. The subsoil of the plain is black volcanic sand providing good drainage. The rainfall which is fairly uniform throughout the year averages approximately 11 inches per month. The typical heavy tropical showers wash and erode the hillsides and make constant road maintenance a necessity.

The Empress Augusta Bay beachhead was virgin jungle except for a small coconut plantation on Torokina Point. The elaborate system of roads shown in the situation map (fig. 159) had all been built since the initial landing during the first week of November 1943. At the time of the enemy attack on 8 March 1944, this system of roads was nearly completed except for a section of the perimeter road connecting the Americal and 37th Division sectors. The perimeter at its greatest depth was carried along the high ridges of the foothills, and this extremely rugged terrain presented a major problem in evacuation where roads were not present or were under fire. This road system alone played an important role in saving the lives of many casualties which might otherwise have been lost. However, the problem of evacuation of wounded within the perimeter was simple when compared to the difficulties encountered in evacuating men wounded on patrol. Patrols constantly covered this rugged terrain beyond the perimeter for distances of 1,000 to 8,000 yards. Even a 1,000-yard carry over these ridges and draws was exhausting to both the litter bearers and the patient.



Owing to this excellent system of good roads, the majority of patients arrived at the hospitals within 3 hours, and frequently within an hour. A sample of 142 patients showed that 87 percent were on the operating table within 3 hours. Patrol missions presented the most difficult problems of evacuation. Small patrols, frequently no larger than a platoon, were so numerous that it was impractical to send a medical officer with each one. Larger combat patrols were usually accompanied by a medical officer. On only one occasion, however, was a patrol large enough to warrant the use of a portable surgical hospital. As a consequence, some patients who were wounded on patrol did not reach the hospital until after 24 to 48 hours had elapsed. However, every effort was made to reduce delay and to provide surgery at the earliest possible moment.



U.S. Army photo

FIGURE 153.—One of the routes of evacuation between the clearing station of the Americal Division and the 21st Evacuation Hospital.



U.S. Army photo

FIGURE 156.—Ward area of the 21st Evacuation Hospital on Bougainville.

The medical installations available for the Bougainville campaign were more than adequate. The clearing stations of both the Americal and 37th Divisions had been augmented with additional surgical equipment before the hospitals were established on the beachhead. The 31st Portable Surgical Hospital had been assigned to the Americal Division and the 33d Portable Surgical Hospital, to the 37th Division. Owing to the fact that more adequate medical facilities became available later, the portable surgical hospitals were not necessary, although they were both utilized. The 52d Field Hospital was utilized for the care of service troops and functioned chiefly as a station hospital for the island. The 21st Evacuation Hospital (fig. 156), an affiliated unit from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla., had an exceptionally well qualified staff, including the various specialists. The construction of this hospital was completed on 8 March 1944; however, the hospital had functioned for a limited

number of patients since 15 February. The normal capacity of the 21st Evacuation Hospital was 750 beds with facilities available for an additional 250 beds (fig. 158). Casualties from all combat troops were cared for at this hospital. Since the 21st Evacuation Hospital was situated only 4,000 yards from the frontlines at the nearest point of attack (forward of some artillery batteries), the majority of the seriously wounded patients were sent directly to the hospital to avoid delay at the clearing stations.

All patients from the island were evacuated through the 21st Evacuation Hospital. Nearly all patients evacuated to the rear were sent by air transport to Guadalcanal and were cared for there in one of three 500-bed station hospitals. Patients requiring a long period of convalescence were evacuated from Bougainville by ship or air transport to Espiritu Santo and to New Caledonia.



U.S. Army photo

FIGURE 158.—Interior of underground ward, 21st Evacuation Hospital on Bougainville. Space was provided for 120 litter patients. This would have been inadequate if shelling had been heavy.

Allied and Japanese Forces Allied forces on Bougainville were concentrated in the Empress Augusta Bay beachhead. The perimeter line of defense had been extended previously in three phases until, by the time of the Japanese attack on 8 March 1944, it enclosed about 20 square miles and was approximately 22,000 yards in length. The total strength within this perimeter as of 31 March 1944 was 60,583. Included were 11,220 Navy and Marine personnel and civilians. The few casualties from these groups were due mostly to shelling and bombing and are not included in this study. The casualties included in this study were derived, therefore, from a total strength of 49,363. Of this number, 40,404 were U.S. Army Ground Force combat troops of which 27,831 constituted the 37th and Americal Divisions. The remainder of the ground force combat troops were attached to the XIV Corps and the 25th Regimental Combat Team. Allied forces other than U.S. troops, chiefly Royal New Zealand Air Force and Fijian Infantry, numbered 3,424. It should be noted that, of these forces, the number actually involved in combat was comparatively few. This number could not be ascertained except for certain specific engagements. The perimeter line of defense was divided between the 37th and Americal Divisions although other forces were used in the line at various times. The Fijian troops, among whom there were a considerable number of casualties, were used chiefly on patrol missions.

Immediately before the attack, the effective strength of the Japanese Army and Navy forces on Bougainville numbered about 27,000. Of these, about 18,000 were believed to be Army combat troops. The remaining strength consisted of Army and Navy anti-aircraft, base, service, and labor troops. No surface ships had been observed in the Bougainville area since mid-November 1943 and whatever supplies were brought in were carried by submarine or barge. With the exception of small arms ammunition, there was evidence that the enemy was short of basic supplies. Although elements of the *17th Division* (one battalion each from the *81st* and *53d Infantry Regiments*) were identified in the Torokina area, the brunt of the attack was borne by the Japanese *6th Division*. The backbone of the enemy's strength was the *13th*, *23d*, and *45th Infantry Regiments* (fig. 159). These units were supported by the *6th Field Artillery Regiment (2d Battalion)* elements of the *4th Heavy (Medium) Artillery Regiment*, as well as miscellaneous mortar, artillery, engineer, and road construction units. The *1st Battalion, 13th Infantry* (minus one company), was to be the division reserve. The total strength of units actually in combat in the Battle of the Perimeter was believed to be only slightly more than 10,000.

The enemy forces faced great difficulties of transportation in the maneuvering of various units, especially heavy artillery, into positions favorable for attack. This had to be accomplished over the most rugged type of terrain at great expenditure of manpower. Finally, they attacked with almost no air support.

Description of the Weapons Commonly Employed by the Japanese³

In the period under study, Japanese weapons accounted for 1,569 casualties, including killed and wounded. Estimates based upon captured weapons indicate that the ratio of 6.5 mm. (caliber .256) to the 7.7 mm. (caliber .303) rifle was approximately 4 to 1. Furthermore, of the smaller caliber (6.5 mm.) weapon, roughly 90 percent were "long," 7 percent "short," and 3 percent "medium" types.

The almost complete absence of muzzle flash in the Model 38 (1905) is a characteristic commented upon favorably by U.S. soldiers. Since the latest Japanese rifle, Model 99, did not possess this feature, it was apparently considered unimportant by the enemy.

Most commonly employed by the enemy at Bougainville, in a ratio of approximately 4 to 1, were the Model 96 (1936) 6.5 mm. light and the Model 92 (1932) 7.7 mm. heavy machineguns. Closely resembling the British Bren light caliber .303 model, the Model 96 (1936) 6.5 mm. light machinegun was considered an excellent weapon by American officers.

In the plan to neutralize and seize the three Torokina airfields, the artillery support was the most extensive yet employed by the enemy in the South Pacific. The Japanese were able to transport a considerable number of heavy weapons through dense jungle and over exceedingly rough terrain to positions overlooking the U.S. perimeter. Assuming all units at full strength, an order of battle indicates that the maximum number of weapons available to them was 136. Actual observation suggested the presence of approximately 40 or 50 pieces.

BOUGAINVILLE CAMPAIGN [MEDICAL] SURVEY PERIOD (15 FEB.-21 APR. 1944)



In an underground surgery room behind the front lines on Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, an American Army doctor operates on a U.S. soldier wounded by a Japanese sniper. December 13, 1943.

The Allied beachhead was established during the first week of November 1943. The period before the Battle of the Perimeter was characterized by consolidation of the defenses of the airfields which were being used for attacking enemy installations in the Bismarck Archipelago and on Bougainville. By 15 February, the airstrips were completed and the perimeter established with the 37th Division on the left flank and the Americal Division on the right flank. From 15 February to 8 March, the perimeter defense was strengthened, and an extensive system of roads was further developed within the perimeter. During this period, patrols made contact with enemy forces moving into position north and east of the perimeter. Some artillery installations were discovered, and strong enemy positions were noted on Hills 1000, 1111, and 600 east of the Torokina River mouth. However, during this period, contact with the enemy was limited to patrol skirmishes and an occasional bombing raid at night.

The Battle of the Perimeter extended from 8 March to 24 March. The Japanese had laid plans for this offensive sometime around the turn of the year. Allied intelligence obtained information that the enemy attack was to be launched on 8 or 9 March, thereby permitting ample preparation for defense of the perimeter.

Enemy plan.—The three infantry regiments were to leave their respective lines of departure following an artillery barrage. This barrage was to commence at 0430 Y-day from the main strength of the *6th Artillery Regiment* (fig. 159) located near Blue Ridge (mountain guns) and the medium field artillery (10 and 15 cm. field pieces) deployed near Hill 500. It appears that the *45th Infantry* was to constitute the main thrust and was to strike Allied lines near the point where the Piva-Numa-Numa Road enters the perimeter (129th Infantry sector). Simultaneously, the *23d Infantry* was to launch its attack from approximately 1,000 yards northeast of Hill 700 with the *3d Battalion* on the left and the *2d Battalion* on the right and the *1st Battalion* in reserve. By the end of Y-day, the *3d Battalion* was to have captured Hill 700 and the *2d Battalion* was to have occupied Cannon Hill. These heights overlooked the Piva airstrip, and the main strength of the *23d Infantry* was to have attacked the strip from the east while the *45th* attacked from the west. The *13th Infantry* was to attack Hill 260 and then join with elements of the *23d Infantry* to proceed in the general direction of the airstrip.

The enemy's Torokina operation began on 8 March with preliminary artillery fire directed mostly on the Piva airstrips. Blue Force counterfire against hostile positions located in the general areas of Hills 1111 and 501 began immediately. The main Japanese drives began under the cover of darkness during the night of 8 March and the morning of 9 March at the three points on the perimeter. In the east sector patrol, contacts and fire fights took place in the vicinity of Hill 260. To the north on Hill 700, the Japanese infiltrated through Allied lines and occupied the northwest slope of the hill. Blue Force counterattack reduced the Japanese positions, and the perimeter was reestablished. In the northwest sector, several fire fights occurred. The Japanese had occupied strong points on Hill 260 and severe fighting resulted in retaking these points, but by 11 March two Blue Force companies occupied Hill 260 with the exception of strong points on the southeast slope.

Another attack on the northern sector was repulsed. Meanwhile, preparations for an enemy drive from the northwest continued. On 12 March, three major attacks from the northwest near the Numa-Numa Trail placed the Japanese within the U.S. perimeter. American tank-infantry teams reestablished the lines next day. The same Blue Forces on Hill 700 received and repelled the third attack on that position. On 15 March, another attempt was made by the Japanese to break through the sector held by the 129th Infantry. Tank-infantry counterattack again restored the perimeter. The next strike by the enemy was again from the northwest near the Piva-Numa-Numa Trail on 17 March. Although a 75-yard penetration was made for the third time, tanks and infantry drove the enemy back. For a week, the Japanese remained relatively quiet, regrouping their forces opposite the northwest sector of the perimeter. Smaller holding forces which were dug in were contacted on the other sectors. On 24 March, after a feeble attempt at laying an artillery barrage, the Japanese struck toward the Piva airstrips once more, penetrated the 129th Infantry lines, and again were driven back, losing 300 men and a field gun. On each occasion when penetration was made, the enemy succeeded in occupying pillboxes within the U.S. perimeter only to be dislodged with heavy losses.

The Japanese did not again attack in force after the repulse on 24 March and began a general withdrawal. Hill 260, however, was not evacuated by the enemy until 28 March. From 28 March to 22 April when this study was completed, contact with the enemy was limited to a few fire fights, patrol skirmishes, and occasional shelling of the airstrips. There were 5,522 Japanese dead counted between 8 March and 22 April. This, however, did not include all areas subjected to U.S. artillery fire.

Battle of the Perimeter Operations on Hill 260⁴

⁴Report, Lt. Col. Wm. J. Mahoney, Executive Officer, Headquarters, 182d Infantry, Americal Division.

The original garrison on Hill 260, a reinforced platoon from Company C, was attacked by a Japanese force of undetermined size at dawn on 10 March. The enemy generally occupied the area south of the outpost tree (fig. 160), and, from this date until the termination of the battle, the Japanese tried to increase their garrison and improve their positions on that side of the hill in order to secure observation for an all-out attack on the main line of resistance.



FIGURE 160.—Focal point of entire Hill 260 battle. Banyan tree used as an Americal Division artillery spotting post. In the 20-day fight for the hill, 541 Japanese were killed.

The terrain was that of an elongated hill with moderately steep sides covered by rain jungle. The outpost tree (fig. 160), around which the heaviest fighting occurred, was one of a common variety of trees on Bougainville, the roots of which plus excavation make a very strong defensive position.

After the initial attack, the Japanese held the south end of Hill 260. They greatly increased the force which had made the original attack because they beat back the Allied attempt to storm the northwest, southwest, and southeast ridges of the hill during the period 11-17 March. Apparently, their main route of supply and evacuation was down the steep east side of the hill, then north clinging to the east side of the west bank bluff overlooking the Torokina River. This route was well concealed and in defilade and difficult to reach by fire. After the initial engagement, reinforcements were sent to secure the north side of Hill 260. The establishing of a perimeter there and the continual pressure on the Japanese positions completely neutralized the effect of the offensive action taken by the Japanese. The possession of Hill 260 by the enemy would have jeopardized a considerable portion of the Allied main line of resistance.



U.S. Army photo

FIGURE 162.—Jungle growth on Hill 260, showing protection afforded by trees.

From the outset, the problem on Hill 260 was one of ejecting the Japanese from the south end of the hill. Their positions were well dug in (fig. 162), and the various American assaults to take the hill were turned back with heavy casualties. Artillery and mortars were useful in blasting Japanese positions in the general area, but because of the proximity of American troops, prepared fires could not be used on the Japanese positions just outside the U.S. perimeter. Artillery was effective on the exposed southwest slope, and after a week's fighting the Japanese were pretty well removed from that area (fig. 163). But those in defilade on the southeast slope dug in and countered every American move. Various means were used to force the Japanese from their dugouts during the closing 10 days of the battle. It was obvious at

that time that the Japanese garrison was considerably reduced in numbers although there was no corresponding lessening of firepower. Flamethrowers and gasoline ignited with thermite grenades reduced a few pillboxes (fig. 164). As late as the morning of 28 March, Japanese were seen near pillboxes on the southeast slope. On the morning of 28 March, three patrols were sent around the base of the hill to fire on the Japanese. When there was no fire, the Allied patrols investigated and found that the Japanese had evacuated. At 1246, 28 March, Hill 260 was secured. On the morning of 30 March, the 2d Battalion, 182d Infantry, was replaced on the hill by 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry.

American forces engaged.—Companies B, E, F, G, and H plus one platoon of Company K, 182d Infantry, and **Company G, 164th Infantry, actively took part in the action on the hill. All other companies in the regiment were in general support,** plus A & B Companies of the 57th Engineer Combat Battalion; 246th & 247th Field Artillery Battalions; 82d Chemical Battalion—total, 1,350 men.

Japanese forces engaged.—Elements of the 13th and 23rd Infantry Regiments, both part of the 6th Division, were identified as taking part in the battle for Hill 260. It was estimated that 1,400 Japanese were involved in this action.

In comparison to the other two main thrusts by the enemy on the perimeter, there was more offensive action by U.S. troops on Hill 260. The enemy in the initial attack had captured and had managed to defend the outpost tree which was the focal point on the hill. Furthermore, the character of the terrain lent itself readily to defense and prevented the effective use of tanks.

The heaviest casualties were in the 182d Infantry with 800 troops involved.

Estimates of Japanese killed and wounded were difficult to make because of their practice of carrying away and burying their own dead. A total of 212 Japanese bodies were found by U.S. troops on Hill 260, and the Americal Division G-2 (intelligence) listed 541 Japanese as the total killed. The ratio of Japanese to U.S. troops killed was 7.6 to 1. In addition, many wounded were seen going to the rear, and it is believed an entire battalion plus a number of supporting troops were virtually wiped out. The heaviest fighting occurred during the period 10-14 March and, as indicated later by prisoner-of-war reports, this engagement broke up the initial attack of the entire Japanese 13th Infantry Regiment on the Bougainville perimeter.



FIGURE 164.—Enemy pillbox on Hill 260. The dense jungle growth has been entirely cleared away by artillery fire.

Christmas at Bougainville, 1943

By George Isenberg, Co F. Submitted by Beverly Isenberg

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944



At dawn on Christmas Day, 1943, the 164th Infantry Regiment, part of the Americal Division, was preparing to land on Bougainville Island in the South Pacific. Our mission was to relieve the Marine unit that made the initial assault and established a beachhead for us.

At dusk on Christmas Eve, the Bougainville coast was a dim line far off to starboard as the ship, an Attack Transport, sailed parallel to the coast in fairly calm seas. I was a 2nd Lieutenant in "F" Company.

Below decks in the troop compartments, the men were reading, playing cards, talking, sleeping, or just loafing. How many of the men slept, or how much they slept, I don't know. I do know my sleep was broken with repeated worrisome thoughts and uncertainties. I knew our landing area was inside the Marine perimeter, so there was little possibility of enemy resistance other than that of artillery fire but what about my men? Has their training been effective? Can they get down the cargo nets into the landing craft without mishap? If someone falls into the water has he learned enough about how to shed his gear and get to the surface before he drowns? Questions like that plagued my thoughts before I finally got to sleep.

Next morning, my first conscious thought was that a storm had come up. The ship was rolling heavily. My second thought was that we had arrived and anchored. The only reminder that it was Christmas Day came at about 0400 hours when a voice came over the ship's loudspeaker:

"Gentlemen, we have about four hours to unload this ship and get out of here before the Jap bombers come in from Rabaul. We wish you good luck and a Merry Christmas!"

I dressed quickly and went out to the nearest weather deck. All I could see was water. I went to the other side of the ship and there was Bougainville a mile away. The late moon did not reveal any detail, just a black line above a white line of surf.

The ship came alive, winches grinding, the squawk box sounding orders preceded by, "Now hear this." Navy people were busy with their tasks. Landing craft were being dropped over the side with their crews aboard and I heard engines starting up and cargo nets being thrown down the side of the ship.

Down in the troop compartment I caught a glimpse of my Platoon Sergeant in the crowd milling about. He reported all men up and ready to go on deck. Then the call came, "Now hear this. First wave to your boat stations." The rifle companies were on the first wave. Successive waves took the Heavy Weapons Company, Battalion Headquarters Company, and my Anti-Tank Platoon. Boat stations, which we had practiced several times enroute, were on the lowest weather deck as close to the water as possible but the men still had to climb fifteen or twenty feet down the cargo net to reach the landing craft. Climbing down the nets with full combat equipment is an art. We had practiced it many times ashore and several times aboard ship, but this time it was real. Most nets took five men down at a time, side by side. As soon as one man disappeared over the rail the next man in line climbed onto the rail and started down.

With the ship rolling and as many as fourteen other men hanging on to the net at the same time, each carrying forty to sixty pounds of pack on his back, his rifle trying to hook itself on the net, and the bayonet on his belt doing the same, it is a wonder so few people are killed or hurt in this part of the landing.

The next problem is getting from the net to the boat. Each man had to judge just how far to climb down the net to reach the best spot to drop off into the landing craft as it reached the top of a wave. He could only pray he would not get so far down the net that the boat rocked against the ship and crushed his feet. Worse yet, he hoped he would not let go the net and land on his head in the boat or in the water between the boat and the ship. On the other hand, if he did not climb down far enough, or misjudged the rise of the boat, he could end up with a long drop, and serious injury. Fortunately, one of the men in my landing craft were hurt and that was the best Christmas gift I could have hoped for. We landed safely ashore. Our 37mm anti-tank guns, along with the jeeps to pull them, would come later.

We celebrated Christmas on the beach sitting in foxholes that had been dug by the Marines we were replacing. There was no festive dinner for us; the cooks and their field kitchens were still aboard ship. We ate the same old K-rations we had eaten yesterday and the day before that and the day before that. There were no Christmas trees to decorate. The only trees we saw were a few ragged palm trees that had survived the barrage from the initial assault. There were no church services; the chaplains also were still on the ship waiting their turn in the landing craft. We were just a group of sweaty, weary soldiers, glad to still be alive, missing our families and friends back home and wishing we were anywhere but here.



'Burtell's Art of War' Featured in the **AMERICAL JOURNAL**

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

July • August • September
2008

AMERICAL JOURNAL

DEDICATED AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO ALL VETERANS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION



Burtell's Art of War

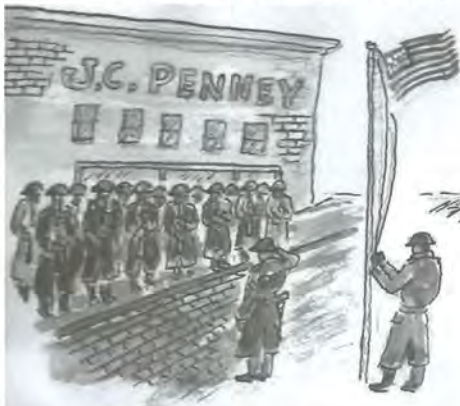
UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

**Doug Burtell
& guest,
Betty Miller
at the
reunion**



From assemblies in front of JC Penney in Fargo prior to deployment, to patrols in the jungle of the South Pacific....Doug Burtell's artwork helps tell the stories of the 164th. Readers of the *News* have seen his art within these pages, as well as on the front covers of this issue and last October's Guadalcanal issue. Now his sketches have moved up the chain of command to the front cover and feature pages of the fall 2008 issue of the AMERICAL JOURNAL. More of Burtell's art will be featured in future issues, promises JOURNAL WWII Editor, Dave Taylor, who was the immediate past editor of the entire news magazine and is presently serving as the Commander, Americal Division Association.

It's funny how things happen. A few years ago, former Association Secretary/Treasurer Ben Kemp asked Doug for some of his artwork to put on the historical panels for the 164th Infantry Memorial Highway. Your Editor shared these pieces with Dr. Terry Shoptaugh, who is authoring the manuscript for *"I Am Ready: The 164th in WWII"*. He travelled to Burtell's home in Bowman, ND, to interview Burtell and scan his art album. Dr. Shoptaugh provided the scans to Taylor, who had become interested in the "The Rifleman" used on the cover of the October '07 *News*. Taylor later contracted for more scans and photographs to use in the JOURNAL. Meanwhile, Dr. Shoptaugh began application for an historical grant to fund a traveling display of Doug's WWII artwork; that project didn't go as planned, so Shoptaugh added a linked section to his website called "The GI's War", featuring Burtell's sketches, stories, and soundbites. The link for this site, and others, are posted below.



And Doug, still as opinionated as ever, and doing rehab from a recent knee replacement, just looks at his 65 year old artwork and smiles.



Col (ret) Dave Taylor, Commander of the Americal Division Association, takes a look at the Regimental Flag at the 164th reunion banquet in September. He is also the WWII Editor for the AMERICAL JOURNAL.

Link to Dr. Terry Shoptaugh's 164th Infantry Website:

www.mnstate.edu/shoptaug/164th%20web%20site/jesuis_pret.htm

Link to "I Am Ready" draft chapters

www.mnstate.edu/shoptaug/164th%20web%20site/Draft%20Chapters/table_of_contents.htm

Link to The GI's WAR sketches by Doug Burtell:

www.mnstate.edu/shoptaug/164th%20web%20site/gis_war%20Burtell%20Page.htm

Link to AMERICAL DIVISION ASSOCIATION:

<http://www.americal.org/>

FRANK BORRECA RETURNS...AGAIN!

By Richard Stevens, Colonel (U.S. Army retired), then Corporal, Company M, 164th Infantry Regiment



Our Editor found him, "... through the Locator on the Americal Website." Now his thoughtful son, Chris, has presented **Frank Borreca** with a Life Membership in the 164th Infantry Association. And there in the "Dues, News, and Views" section of the July 2008 issue of *The 164th Infantry News* (p. 27) is Frank's picture (uniformed, circa 1945) with his later-to-be-deceased first wife -- Frank looking as cool, casual, and thoughtful as I remembered him from so long ago. New Yorker **Corporal Frank Borreca** was a squad leader in M/164's Second Platoon (caliber .30 heavy machine guns), present for duty when the *President Coolidge* lifted anchor with the 164th aboard in San Francisco Harbor, headed south and west, February 1942. I personally didn't know Frank well. We were Corporals in different platoons. And Infantrymen tend to be most clannish with their own platoon members. But Frank came to have a distinction in our company which was to make him a standout.

It began with that failed four-battalion attack beyond the **Matanikau** which the Army launched early in

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

the afternoon of 21 November 1942. Everyone in 1/164 and 3/164 who was there will surely never forget (1/182 and 2/182 also participated). The operation was particularly memorable for M/164. On the night of 20-21 November, while we were dug in on the jump-off line, two of our Second Platoon members were surprised and killed by a small-party sneak attack. A night or two later, while one of M/164's 81MM mortar crews was firing a mission, a round inexplicably exploded in the tube (one fatality, two wounded, weapon destroyed). No one who was there in the 21 November attack will forget how quickly we were stopped by heavy Japanese small arms fire. That's when **Corporal Frank Borreca**, going to ground, was rather severely wounded in the back by grazing fire. **Private Lewis E. Knight**, also a Second Platoon member, and a high school classmate of mine, was killed at the same time and place (I've visited **Eddie Knight** twice at Honolulu's Punch Bowl Cemetery, the last time this past February 2008).

And so Frank Borreca was carried away -- and, as time went by, became one of our many memories.

Where were we when he so unexpectedly *returned*, long after, to M/164? Fiji? Bougainville? **No one else from M/164 who'd ever been wounded and evacuated off-island for treatment, then or later, ever came back. Frank Borreca had insisted on it.**

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

And what stories he had to tell us. He'd been evacuated from Guadalcanal to a U.S. Navy hospital in New Zealand.

When he'd convalesced sufficiently there had been short passes away from the hospital and had the opportunity to get to know New Zealand/New Zealanders. (Made a guy want to go right out and get himself wounded? Not really.) And when he took off his shirt and showed us his back, we were impressed. Well-healed battle scars indeed. But his back continued to bother him. I had a long talk with Frank on the telephone recently. He had not been aware of our 164th Infantry Association. I told him about the *News*; he'll get it regularly now.

Frank Borreca came back to M/164 during WWII when no one else in his situation ever did. Now he's with us again. "Welcome back, Frank!" And, "Thank You, Editor".



'Management Team' remained friends over the Years



Irene Jelleberg sent in these photos, identifying her 1st husband, Ross McNea, as the first man in each lineup. She said he was inducted with the unit on 10 Feb 41 and was released 20 Aug 45. She suggested that **Sandy Sanderson** would be able to identify the Ice Co management team of 1942 & 1980's...she was right!

1. **Ross McNea**, member of Med Det formed in Bottineau on 6 Dec 41. He was a Company Aidman with H Co, 164, at Guadalcanal, where the ToJo Ice Co picture was taken in late 1942. He passed away 28 Jul 87.

2. **George Hopkins** was an original member of H Co. He lives in Mandan, ND, and attended the 2008 reunion.

3. **Charles Borgia** joined H Co some time before the Tojo picture was taken. He came to reunions regularly. He answered the Last Roll Call 22 Nov 05.

4. **Nick Cascio**, New York. Don't know when he joined H Co, but was with them at Guadalcanal, is a member of the 164th Assoc, was at a reunion not long ago.

[Editor— I wrote to Mr Cascio for comments, but received no reply]

By Gene Jensen, his son



Eugene T. Jensen

I appreciate your willingness to honor my Dad and his service to his country by offering to write of his service in the 164th. Dad spoke of the war in the broad context of freedom and right and wrong. He spoke very little of the actual events he was engaged in. After he passed away, I got a copy of his discharge papers. I found where I could write to the services and request his medals and ribbons. I was surprised at the result, having no idea he had received so many decorations. I have requested a copy of the letters that come with some of the decorations such as the Bronze Star and Presidential Unit Citation etc. I hope they are still on record and I can learn more. As patriotic as Dad was, I don't think he'd approve of me putting him in the lime light among his peers of the 164th.

Dad told the story of an odd thing that happened when they were fighting in the Philippine Islands. After years of fighting in the Pacific, they had learned several life-saving tactics.

One of them was keeping an eye in the trees for snipers. On one occasion, movement was seen in the tree before the sniper fired on them. Several riflemen opened fire on the supposed sniper and down he fell. To their surprise, it was not a Japanese sniper, not even a man, but an animal that was the size of a man. Dad said that no one knew what it was, but he thought it looked something like an alligator. It was only a few years ago that I learned of a monitor lizard called a Butaan. They are only found in the Philippine Islands, feed on fruit, and live in the trees. They grow to 7 feet long. Until only recently, scientists thought they had become extinct 130 years ago. After seeing a picture of a Butaan, I can understand why the soldiers were surprised and didn't know what it was!

32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS	GUADALCANAL, NORTHERN SOLOMONS, SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES AND EAST INDIES
CAMPAIGNS	FOUR (4) BATTLE STARS
33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS	PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION WITH STAR 31 DEC 43
	PHILIPPINE LIBERATION RIBBON WITH BRONZE STAR 5 FEB 45



This past Memorial Day, I sent the attached note to my Mom, my older brothers and my sons. As brothers in arms, you might appreciate the symbolism and spirit of it: A person would not think twice of this common scene, a US flag flying in front of a plant. To me however, this is no common flag or plant. This is my plant in Oregon, and is owned by company that was created as a partnership between **RD Offutt Company of Fargo, ND, and Calbee Foods of Tokyo, Japan.**



This plant uses potatoes grown in Oregon and processes them for salty snack foods that are sold in Japan.

The American flag that flies in this picture was provided by the US government to cover Dad's casket when he passed away in December 2003. A symbolic token Dad earned as an Army veteran who served in the Pacific during WWII. He fought as an infantryman on the front lines of battles that included **Guadalcanal, Bougainville, the Northern Solomons, and finally the liberation of the Philippines.** Dad rarely spoke of his 3 years of combat in the Pacific. While patriotic, proud of his service and the men he served with, the violence of war had no place in his life when he completed duty and came home.

I think Dad would find the symbolism fitting, flying this flag over this plant. This business processes food for Japanese customers and earns a profit for US farmers and businesses as well as Japanese businesses. In the brisk winds of the Columbia Basin, this flag will wear out with dignity and be retired. In the meantime, I will be reminded of Dad this Memorial Day and the honorable and dignified life he lead all his days.

The US Flag presented to Gene Jensen at his father's funeral in 2003 proudly flies at the Corporate Headquarters of RDO-Calbee on Memorial Day.

Gene Jensen, VP Operations, RDO-Calbee Foods,
541-481-6550 ext6577, gjensen@rcfboardman.com

Remembering John F. Schuld, Co K

By Sue Palmer, his daughter

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

I wish I could tell you more about my father's military service. He did not discuss it much with the family members. He attended almost every reunion of the 164th Association until his death in 1987. I truly believe that attending all those reunions and spending time with his fellow soldiers was the therapy he needed to deal with the horrors of war and live a normal life after his military service. I know he was a member of the North Dakota National Guard and was activated for WWII.

He lied about his age to join the Guard when he was only 17 which would have been sometime in 1938 or early 1939. This little fib caused some problems getting social security when he turned 65 and a death certificate when he died in 1987. His birth certificate burned when the capitol building in Bismarck, North Dakota, was destroyed by fire so his military papers were used to establish his age, etc. He mentioned that he fought on **Guadalcanal**. I seem to remember talk of a stateside stationing at Fort Polk. He talked very fondly of his R&R on the beautiful **Fiji** Islands. He wanted to return there and had planned to travel with the 164 Infantry members who traveled there for a reunion tour but he died before he could take the trip.

After my mother died last November I found the photo album and other 164 Infantry information in some boxes at her home. I believe most of the pictures were taken stateside. I had just watched a History Channel documentary on the Pacific theater battles during WWII, specifically Guadalcanal. I wanted to see if my father's infantry group was in any of the areas mentioned in that documentary so I researched the 164th Infantry on the internet. I found the archival record and photo journal that had been assembled by 164 members and their spouses and family members [Dickinson Library Co K Site, see photo lower right]. It was wonderful to see some other photos of my father and I wondered if any of the members were still living and if they still gathered for their reunions. I then noticed a posting about the 164th final reunion and then saw your response indicating that the infantry was planning a reunion in Valley City this September. That is where I found your email address.

I will send you the photos this week. You may keep them if you wish. We kept the photos of my father but I will scan those soon and send those to you under separate cover. My brother will look through a few boxes that are left from the family home as I think I remember some discharge papers and medals, insignia, etc., that you may like to have for your archives.



I am happy to hear that the survivors still meet and that you gather to remember and honor your

service. The photos are not the greatest quality but may still be of interest to your members. Good luck with the upcoming reunion and please extend my gratitude to your surviving members for their brave service to our country. We owe all of you who served so bravely during WWII a huge debt of gratitude. I hope you all enjoy your reunion.

Sue Palmer 4111 W Delmar St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012

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Co K's Durwood Goodale & Tim Sullivan on Bougainville as they finish their wash. They said that it was so hot and humid that the clothes never really dried and had to be worn wet while serving on Bougainville 1944.

From <http://www.dickinsonlibrary.org/>
Contact: calbre@und.nodak.edu

Guadalcanal Experiences of Lt. Archie P. Dougan

By David Dougan, his son

The photo on pg 19, July 2008 issue, had an arrow marking a soldier marching in the Reg't Parade. The photo, from Neil Tennyson's collection, was ID'd as Neil. David Dougan wrote to identify the man as his father, Archie Dougan, from Fargo, and a great friend of Neil's -Editor



These are stories of the North Dakota National Guard that were passed on to me by my father after he returned from his service. He was originally from Fargo and joined **Headquarters Company**, the local Guard unit there, as a private, in 1935. He was a Sergeant by 1939 and, in 1940, was promoted to 2d Lt and assigned to the Heavy Weapons Platoon. In Jan 1941, the unit was activated and the 164th was sent to Camp Claiborne, La. In Oct, he was sent to Ft. Benning, Ga, for advanced training and was there when Pearl Harbor was bombed. He was promoted to 1Lt and re-joined his unit,

My Uncle **Brian Dougan** had to drop out of the Guard when he contacted pneumonia in early 1941 and he died in April

1941 and Neil told me that, he being the company clerk, was the one who had to tell my dad...all this happened while the Regt was at Camp Claiborne. It was so painful my dad could not talk about it.

The Regt was marshaled into San Francisco in May of 1942, spent several days sleeping in the "Cow Palace" outside San Francisco, and from there sailed to New Caledonia where the 164th was matched up with two other Regiments to form the Americal Division. The "Southern Cross" patch became the Division's official patch then. An interesting side note was that the 164th was part of the 34th Infantry Div before being detached to the west coast and if they had stayed with that Div then they would have been involved with the invasion of North Africa, Sicily, and Italy in the European theater.



1939

Archie & Brian

On New Caledonia, the Regt received a new commander, Lt. Col. Bryant Moore. He was a West Pointer and a stickler for details per my father and I got the impression that the North Dakota boys were not big fans of his, but he did well as a leader. Moore died during the Korean War in a helicopter accident. My dad was very close to many of the Fargo men and stayed in touch with some of them long after the war. This was primarily because of his baseball career with the Fargo American Legion and the Fargo Moorhead Twins. I think he was more proud of his contract with the Twins than any of the medals he ever received!

As the Regt was preparing to join the 1st Marine Division on Guadalcanal, dad was made Company Executive Officer of **C Company**. Apparently Lt. Col Moore was making all sorts of changes and dad was one of those affected. The company sailed into Guadalcanal 13 October 1942, and landed during an air raid by the Japanese. Being the company XO, Dad was charged with offloading supplies so he was on a barge that was moving back and forth, ship to shore to the island, when the Japanese planes attacked....his only comment was that "his barge did a lot of broken field sailing, dodging bullets during the time of the Japanese bombardment". It seems that the 1st Battalion which C Company was part of, was in reserve during the big bombardment during late October. At that time, the Japanese had control of the seas and regularly sailed into "iron bottom bay" and bombarded the Marines and soldiers. The Regt was without regular food, subsisted on K Rations, and at one time had to destroy their papers because they thought they may be ordered to surrender. The Japanese had almost complete control of the sea during this time and no reinforcements or supplies could get to the men on the island while the Japanese were landing their forces daily. On the night of the bombardment, two battleships sailed in, accompanied by dozens of cruisers and destroyers and launched several thousand shells onto Henderson Field. My father had been up working for 3 days and was so tired that he sat down under a coconut tree around 6:00pm that evening and fell sound asleep. The bombardment started by 10:00pm and around midnight, dad woke up and thought the world was coming to an end. He had been out in the open, under a tree for two hours while the one of the worst bombardments American soldiers had ever experienced was going on....and he slept through the whole thing. He ran over to a bunker and announced "this is Lt. Dougan and I'm coming in"well, the fellows in the bunker said "no way, you must be a Jap and we will shoot you...no American would be outside in this bombardment".....the discussion went on for a few minutes then Dad said to hell with this and jumped in head first and landed on his company commander and broke the CO's compass and watch. He never lived this incident down.

The Japanese flag I have was one he took from a Japanese soldier killed during the battle for the Matanikau River. Dad had a samurai sword, pistol, helmet, and other items, but he gave those away in the 1950's.



David Dougan & Japanese Flag taken by his father at the Matanikau River, Guadalcanal



Dad got malaria and yellow fever in late November, and was in the base first aid camp and recognized one of the Marine heroes, Lt. Col. Chesty Puller, in the first aid camp. Puller some how had rated a gallon of ice cream from the Navy and sat on his cot sharing it with Dad. That was about the nicest thing a Marine ever did for him per dad. He spent most of 1943 in military hospitals and suffered the effects of malaria all of his life. In Aug 1943, while still on hospital status, he had leave to come to Fargo where he was the toast of the town since he was the first of the local boys to return home. A parade was held in his honor, the mayor gave him the key to the city, and he visited with families of those killed in action.

During WWII, the Army policy was not to send troops with malaria back to the Pacific, so by Oct he was discharged from the hospital, promoted to Captain, and sent to a training company for 6 months. He was pronounced fit and sent to Europe with the 100th Infantry Division, which landed in Southern France as part of the 6th Army Campaign the fall of 1944. He saw combat in France, Belgium, Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge; The Rhineland; and finally into Germany, ending the war as a Battalion Operations Officer.



1938 Fargo American Legion Baseball Team

Bottom L-R: Richard Callahan, R Field; Archie Dougan, 1st Base; Eddie Burns, Utility; Roy McArthur, Pitcher; Bud Schawder, Center; Lee Nelson, 2nd Base. 2nd Row: Jerrey Schawder, Short; Don Beslick, Left; Doc Rothrock, Utility; Owen Otteson, 3rd Base. Top: Phil Sundby, Manager-Catcher.

Dougan, Callahan, Burns, Rothrock, Nelson served in the 164th. Otteson and McArthur died in the Bataan Death March.

Archie never forgot his roots though, and was always most proud of his service with the 164th Regt, North Dakota National Guard. Dad married a Texas girl while stationed at Camp Claiborne and I was born on 2 Oct 1942, as the Regt was loading up on New Caledonia. *He did not learn of my arrival until late November 1942.* He lived in Texas after the war and was instrumental in forming a number of National Guard units here. He passed away in Oct 1970 at the age of 55 years from heart disease, but I will always be convinced it was because of his war illnesses. He left a wife, 5 children and 7 grandchildren. His sister always said that "Archie was the only person she knew who was so proud of being from North Dakota". I can attest that part is true. He loved his homeland. Both parents, brother, and two sisters, as well as grand parents, are buried in Fargo.

Finally, I can still hear Dad recite the poem (below) written by one of the 164th Veterans. He knew the whole poem by heart!

**"The filth and hell of Guadalcanal,
The slime, the rot of the slaughter.
I'd give my soul to be out of this hole.
Oh! For a drink of water!"**

David Dougan (LM)*, served as a Heavy Mortar Platoon leader in the 2nd Armored Division.



His younger brother, Bill, was an E-4 in the 1/8th Cav, 1st Air Cavalry, in Vietnam during 1966-1967.

David is the founder & CEO of Dougan & Associates, an executive search firm in Texas.

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Dad's older half brother, **Lt William L. Dougan**, was a great flyer & ace in WWI. Billy Dougan ran off to join the Canadian Army in 1915, served in the trenches as an ambulance driver before becoming a pilot. In the Royal Flying Corps, he flew a Spad bi-plane paid for by the King of Swaziland, and was credited with **16 kills**: 9 enemy planes and 7 observation balloons. In 1917, he was shot down & captured by the Germans. He survived his wounds and the unhealthy German hospital, was decorated by King George V, and was a recognized hero in Canada, England, & the US. He was too old for WWII, so he became a test pilot for Lockheed and flew with Charles Lindbergh testing the P-38 Lightning, a main fighter in the war. Billy was raised in Missouri and corresponded with his father (my Grandfather), A.P. Dougan, who worked for the Fargo Forum, but my Dad got to know him only after WWII.



By William P. Stegemann, his grandson

My grandfather, **Charles Edward Delaney, Jr.**, was born on March 25, 1915, on the family farm near Emerado, ND, to Charles and Mary (Evanson) Delaney. He died on March 22, 2002, at St. Mark's Nursing Home in Austin, Minn. He spent his last five and one half years there after a severe stroke. As was common in his youth, Charles spent most of his time working on the farm and went to school when he could. He liked to hunt and trap in his spare time. In 1939, his father died and Charles and an older brother farmed in partnership until Charles was drafted on May 6, 1941, and joined the 164th Infantry at Camp Claiborne. He served until his discharge on August 18, 1945.

30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. TURCK DRIVER LIGHT 345	COMBAT INFANTRYMAN'S BADGE and 2nd CLASS GUNNER SHARPSHOOTER RIFLE-MV DRIVERS BADGE
32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS GUADALCANAL, NORTHERN SOLOMONS	SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

After he returned from overseas, the Army sent Charles to Chicago to drive a truck while the truck drivers there were on strike. There he met Jim, another serviceman, who told him the Geo. A. Hormel & Company (the maker of SPAM and other products eaten during his time in the Army) was hiring in Austin, Minn. He followed Jim to Austin and told his mother that he would likely be home in a couple of weeks. He remained with Hormel until his retirement 1977.

In Austin, Charles met his wife, Cecelia, and they were married in April 1946. They had a family of ten children and nineteen grandchildren. His hobbies included reading, camping, fishing, and hunting. He enjoyed taking care of his garden and square dancing. He was one of the best cloggers around. He was an excellent trap shooter and won many awards. He loved to play card games and perform card tricks—I think he won some money while in the Army. He was very competitive and I will always remember the way he snapped his cards. He could fix nearly anything and was a skilled carpenter and mechanic. He always took great pride in every project he worked on, whether it was for himself or someone else. Charles was a member of St. Augustine's Church, VFW, and American Legion.

I am sure he would have joined the 164th Infantry Association had he known about it. My grandfather did not talk much about his experiences during the war. Had it not been for the war, he would likely have remained a farmer on the family homestead in N.D. He sent his trunk home containing his uniform, medals and pictures among other things with a serviceman who said he would deliver it to Charles' mother. The trunk was never delivered and he lost everything it contained. I remember him telling me about his time in Australia, and how his infantry unit fought alongside the Marines (he was very proud of that). He said you could hear the Japanese moving around in the dark all night long. The time he was most afraid, he told me, was when he had to cross the enemy line (I forget why) and he could not carry his rifle.



I would appreciate hearing from anyone who remembers my grandfather or wishes to provide some information on what he would have experienced. I do not know if there are books or other sources that would be good information. You never know if history books give a true account of what happened unless you were there. I recently discovered your association while searching about the 164th on the Internet. My search brought me to GruntsMilitary.com, and the info posted there by your Editor.

Yours very truly, William P. Stegemann, 26171 U.S. Highway 218, Austin, MN 55912

E-mail: wpstegem@yahoo.com



Folks Who Attended the 2008 Reunion

Reunion Personalities

MEMBER	SPOUSE/GUEST	UNIT
Anderson, James*	Sam (son)	Co A*
Arneson, Irene* [Ray]	Helen Breeden* (daughter) H1* Haley Herbolzheimer (great-gdaughter)	
Beaton, James		RgtHqs (WWII)
Bork, Melvin	Dorothy	H3
Burkhart, Karl		Co G (K)
Burtell, Doug	Betty Miller	RgtHqs (WWII)
Castagneto, Joseph	Nikole Morrison (gdau) Denise Henderson (f)	Co A
Conrath, Caroline*	(Ted Conrath's sister)	Co K*
Dahl, Erling	Jean	Co G (K)
Dahl, Francis	Joyce	Co G (K)
Drong, Pat*	Jim (photographer)	Conf Planner*
Geston, John* & Carolyn	(Matthew's Son)	Co C*
Goven, Gigi*	(Daughter of Dr. John)	Medics*
Goven, Thomas*	(Son - Dr. John Goven)	Medics*
Griffin, Tony	Cheryl (dau)	Co G
Hagen, William	Wm Jr (son) & Lorraine	Co B
Hammargren, Filmore	Agnes Manthey	Co L (K)
Harstad, Darrel		Driver
Heinz, Greg*	Caryn	Exhibitor
Hesch, Duane	Linda	Co G (K)
Hoffman, Don	Lorraine & grandson	Co H (WWII)
Hopkins, George	Fran Stroh (dau)	Co H (WWII)
Jeffrey, Robert	Pete (son)	Co E (WWII)
Kane, Milt	Janice	Co G (K)
Kerbaugh, Kathryn*	Sons Blake & Keith	Co E* (Lester)
Landowski Family [John]	Fran Dvorak (dau) & Jerry Anti-Tank Mary Lou Stewart (sis) & Robert	
Lenzmeier, Ralph		Co B (K)
Lokken, Dave		Co G (K)
Lykken, Treumann		Co C (WWII)
Mattingly, Carl	Carol Kampi	Co E (K)
Nearhood, Horace		Co B
Oehlke, Ralph	Pearl	Band, AntiTank
Olgeirson, Shirley J.*		Editor
Olson, Vince	Dorothy	Co G (K)
Otto, Eddie	Dolores	Co G (K)
Pedersen, Gerald	Beth	Co G (K)
Risser, Harold	Shirley	Co G (K)
Ross, Charles		Co E (WWII)
Sanderson, Gerald	Leila Lehman	Medics (WWII)
Schuldt, Al*		Exhibitor
Schultz, Herbert		Co E (K)
Shaver, Kenneth	Ruth Myhre (Anti-T)*	Svc Co (WWII)
Stensgard, Orlyn		Co B (K)
Shoptaugh, Terry*		Author
Skogley, Gerald	Marilyn	Reg't Hqs (K)
Summers, Kevin*	(Roy's Son)	Co F*
Taylor, David	Commander, Americal Division Association	
Tollefsrud, Alvin		Co L (WWII)
Tucker, William J	Mary Lou Drain* (dau) Brian Diggs (grandson)	Co M (WWII)
Tuff, Edith*	Laura Utecht	Co M*
Urness, Reginald	Roselynn	H2 (K)
Vagle, Tom	Diana	Co G (K)
Ventsch, Warren		Co A*
Wagner, Bernard	Mary	Co F, G
Walker, Catherine*		
Walker, Charles	Hettie	Co E (WWII)
Wallace, Owen		Co G (K)
Weber, Rhiny		Co G (K)
Wiest, Al	Mary Simpkins* (dau) Richard* (son) & Inta	Co H, M
Winkler, Mary Ann*		Co G* (K)



President Bernie Wagner and his wife, Mary, hosted the 2008 Reunion.



Banquet Master of Ceremonies Ed Otto and his wife, Dolores



Chaplain Tom Vagle and his wife, Diana



Darrel Harstad "The Driver"

Al Schuldt, Japanese artifact exhibitor



Greg Heinz, exhibitor of all things 164 and his wife, Caryn Schacher

2008 Reunion "Unit" Photos

World War II

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

BACK ROW: Reg't Hqs, Doug Burtell; Co A, Joe Castagneto; Co B, Horace Nearhood, Bill Hagen;



Co C, Treumann Lykken; Co E, Charlie Ross, Bob Jeffrey; Hqs 3rd Bn, Melvin Bork; 2nd Bn Medic, Sandy Sanderson; **FRONT ROW:** Co G, Bernie Wagner; Co H, Don Hoffman; Co L, Alvin Tollefsrud; Co M, Al Wiest, Bill Tucker; Anti-Tank & Band, Ralph Oehlke.

Korean War Era

UN DEFENSIVE 1950



Note: All soldiers not holding a Company designation letter are from Co G.

BACK ROW: Co G, Dave Lokken; Tom Vagle; Reg't Hqs, Gerald Skogley; Co B, Orlyen Stensgard; Hqs 2nd Bn, Reginald Urness; Co E, Herb Schulz; Co L, Filmore Hammargren; Co G, Francis Dahl; **FRONT ROW:** Co G, Owen Wallace; Ralph Lenzmeier; Erling Dahl; Bernie Wagner; Eddie Otto, Vince Olson, Milt Kane.

MORE Member Reunion Attendees...

WWII

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944



Jim Beaton, Reg't Hqs
George Hopkins, Co H
Tony Griffin, Co G [Also Korea]
Ken Shaver, Svc Co [Also Korea]
Chuck Walker, Co E & H

Korean War Era

UN DEFENSIVE 1950



Carl Mattingly, Co E
Rhiny Weber, Co G
Harold Risser, Co G
Gerald Pedersen, Co G
Duane Hesch, Co G
Karl Burkhardt, Co G

Spouses & Significant Others



Irene Arneson*, Dorothy Bork, Joyce Dahl, Jean Dahl, Linda Hesch, Janice Kane, Pearl Oehlke, Kathryn Kerbaugh*



Ruth Myhre*, Dorothy Olson, Delores Otto, Beth Pedersen, Marilyn Skogley, Edith Tuff*, Roselynn Urness, Diana Vagle



Mary Wagner, Hettie Walker, Mary Ann Winkler*, Betty Miller, Agnes Manthey, Carol Kampi, Leila Lehmann
(Burtell) (Hammargren) (Mattingly) (Sanderson)

More Photos of Reunion Activities will be featured in the March 2009 issue.

164th Infantry Association of the United States

Minutes: Annual Meeting, Saturday, 15 Sep 07, Valley City, ND

The meeting of the 164th Infantry Association was called to order by President Bernie Wagner.

Pres. Bernie announced that Dave Lokken is now President of Company "G" due to the loss of Ray Kreidlkamp. He also announced that Co. "G" is having their 2009 Reunion in June.

The question was asked "How long will the reunions be going". The answer is "As long as the members want them".

The opening prayer was given by Chaplain Tom Vagle.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Commissioner Ken Evenson gave greetings from Valley City.

Pres. Bernie called for the Audit Committee to meet and go over the books.

The minutes of the 2007 meeting were in the Oct 07 Newsletter and Milt Kane made a motion to forgo the reading of the 2007 minutes with a second by Joe Castagneto. Carried.

Pres. Bernie called on the "Time and Place" Committee. They have set the date for the 2009 164th Inf Assn Reunion for September 18-20, 2009 in Valley City, ND. It is already on the Valley City Chamber Calendar and they have the VFW reserved for that date. It's a go for another year.

Pres. Bernie introduced Dave Taylor, National Commander Americal Division Veterans Association. He gave a short talk to the gathering. He explained going to the UND Archives and getting lots of info on the 164th. The Americal Division is 3000 strong and growing. They are getting more Viet Nam era members now. With information he had he gave Editor Shirley names to contact for our membership.

The Audit Committee gave the Financial Report which is attached. Francis Dahl asked that the report be accepted. Vince Olson made a motion to accept with a second by Edith Tuff. Carried. Owen Wallace thanked the committee and gave Pat "Great Job Done".

Warren Ventsch gave the Scholarship Report. They have 2 scholarships to give out each year. Only 1 application came in this past year. Amy Retterath was the recipient of the 2007 Scholarship. There is \$1977.85 in the fund currently. The Committee sends applications to Colleges for Junior/Senior students in Social Science, History and Nursing. There was some discussion on changing the qualifications. Nothing was done at this time. Milt Kane, Alvin Tollefsrud and Warren Ventsch will check into the recommendations. You can send any donations for the scholarship to Pat Drong, PO Box 192, Sanborn ND 58480.

Pres Bernie announced due to the rainy weather the Band Concert has been called off. Pat will notify the radio station.

Bernie gave Shirley praise for the excellent work as Editor of the 164th Newsletter. Bernie also gave Pat and Jim Drong thanks for all the work in keeping the Reunions going.

Nomination Committee: The following names were put in for election: President---Bernie Wagner; Vice President---Vince Olson; Sec/Treas---Pat Drong. President Bernie asked for any other nominations. Tom Vagle called for a unanimous ballot. Carried. Keith Kerbaugh was called on to give a short report on the "Honor Flights" and he saluted all the Veterans. Sandy Sanderson called for another round of thanks for Pat and Shirley. Tom Vagle moved to adjourn with a second by Alvin Tollefsrud. Carried.

Patricia Drong Secretary/Treasurer

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR 2008 DUES!

We could significantly cut mailing costs if annual members would send in their dues for 2008 now, before a reminder is necessary.

Annual Dues - \$10, or upgrade to *Life Membership* - \$50

Mail to Secretary/Treasurer

Patricia L. Drong, Box 192, Sanborn, ND 58480

164TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT FROM SEPTEMBER 2007 THRU AUGUST 2008

Net Worth August 2007	\$23,699.54	
MONTH OF:	EXPENSES	INCOME
SEPTEMBER '07	\$1,090.75	\$ 14.84
OCTOBER '07	\$ 0.00	\$4,724.20
NOVEMBER '07	\$1,189.11	\$ 681.21
DECEMBER '07	\$ 82.00	\$ 250.90
JANUARY '08	\$1,444.71	\$2,309.62
FEBRUARY '08	\$1,267.81	\$1,121.03
MARCH '08	\$1,210.82	\$ 273.18
APRIL '08	\$ 0.00	\$ 558.96
MAY '08	\$1,129.18	\$ 4.51
JUNE '08	\$ 94.00	\$ 634.50
JULY '08	\$2,213.72	\$ 4.24
AUGUST '08	\$ 25.00	\$ 3.63
TOTAL 31 Aug 08	\$9,747.10	\$10,580.82
BANK STATEMENT		\$13,033.52
CASH		\$ 50.14
CD BALANCE		\$11,419.60
NET Worth AUG '08		\$24,503.26

I CERTIFY THAT THIS REPORT IS TRUE
AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY
KNOWLEDGE FOR THE PERIOD ENDING
31 AUGUST 2008

PATRICIA L. DRONG
SECRETARY/TREASURER

\$164 Winners!!

Kenneth Sandhop (LM) Co B
Jon Burkhart (relative of Karl's)
Arthur Schmaltz (LM) Co G



Patricia Drong



WWII American Military Leaders



Henry Hartley Arnold was born 25 June 1886. He became the US Army's first pilot in 1911, helped establish the Signal Corp's aviation school, and set an altitude record of 6,540 feet. In 1940 Arnold was appointed as commander of the newly reorganized United States Army Air Forces (USAAF). In 1941 the USAAF had 25,000 personnel and about 4,000 aircraft. At Pearl Harbor, a total of 178 aircraft were destroyed on the ground and 159 were damaged. In 1942--10,769 fighters and 12,627 bombers were built; 1943--23,988 fighters and 29,355 bombers; 1944--38,873 fighters and 35,003 bombers were built. In December 1944 Arnold was promoted, placing him fourth in ranking behind George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Henry Hartley Arnold died on 15th January, 1950, in Sonoma, California.



George Marshall was born in PA on 31 December 1880. Marshall served on the Western Front in WWI. He was a strong advocate of air power, but was criticized over his policy of using all available resources to defeat Germany before Japan. In 1944, Marshall was disappointed not to have command of the Allied D-Day landings, but FDR said he could not afford to lose him as Chief of Staff. Marshall was given the rank of a five-star general in December 1944. Marshall resigned as Chief of Staff on 21 November 1945, but a few days later Harry S. Truman persuaded him to become U.S. ambassador in China. In January 1947, Truman, who called Marshall "the greatest living American", appointed him as Secretary of State where he devised the European Recovery Program (ERP), for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. At age 69, he was appointed Secretary of Defense and organized US forces early in the Korean War. He died 16 October 1959.



Alexander Vandegrift was born in 1887. In March 1943 was appointed commander of the 1st Marine Division. He had the task of removing the stranglehold of the Japanese in the South Pacific and conducted his first successful amphibious landings at Guadalcanal on 7 August 1942. Despite attempts by the Japanese Army, Navy and Air Force, the US Marines were able to stay and build the Henderson Field airstrip. The US Marines managed to withstand continuous attacks including the battles of Tenaru River (21st August) and Bloody Ridge (12th September). Vandegrift, who was awarded the Navy Cross and the Medal of Honor, for his achievements on Guadalcanal, was relieved by General Alexander Patch and the 14th Corps in December. As Commander of the 1st Marine Amphibious Corps, he directed military operations at Bougainville in November. Promoted to general in 1944, he assumed overall command of the Marine Corps. He died in 1973.



Lewis "Chesty" Puller was born in the United States in 1898. He joined the US Marines and won two Navy Crosses for acts of bravery in Nicaragua (1931-32). During the Second World War Puller was sent to Guadalcanal and on 24th October, 1942, won a third Navy Cross for holding a mile long section of the line around Henderson Field. Promoted lieutenant colonel he became executive officer of the 7th Marines. He also led the 1st Marine Regiment during the assault of Peleliu on 15th September 1944 where the suffered 65 per cent casualties. After being awarded a four Navy Cross he returned to the United States to command a training unit. Puller, who won a fifth Navy Cross during the Korean War, retired from the US Marines in 1955. Lewis Puller died in 1971.



Alexander Patch, the son of an army officer, was born on 23 November 1889. He saw action in Mexico and in France during the First World War and by 1918 had reached the rank of lieutenant colonel. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Patch was promoted to major general and sent to New Caledonia. As head of the 164th Infantry Regiment, he joined Alexander Vandegrift and his US Marines on Guadalcanal on 13 October 1942. Patch led a counter-offensive against the Japanese Army and secured victory on 9th February 1943. In May 1943, Patch returned to the US, then commanded the US 7th Army which landed in France near Toulon on 15 August 1944. His troops captured the Saar on 15 March 1945. In July 1945, Patch was promoted to lieutenant general and placed in command of the 4th Army. He died of pneumonia on 21 November 1945.



Chester Nimitz was born in Texas on 24 February 1885. He eventually became the navy's leading authority on submarines. During the First World War Nimitz was chief of staff in the Atlantic Submarine Force. He was promoted to rear admiral in 1938. After Pearl Harbor Nimitz was placed in charge of the Pacific Fleet and sent William Halsey to attack the Marshall Islands and Frank Fletcher to raid the Gilbert Islands. In December 1944, Nimitz, William Leahy and Ernest King were all given the five star rank of Fleet Admiral. In November 1945 Nimitz replaced King as Commander in Chief of the US Fleet. Nimitz retired from the United States Navy in 1947 and two years later accepted the post as a good will ambassador for the United Nations. Chester Nimitz, who declined to write his memoirs, died at his home on 20 February 1966



William Halsey, son of a naval captain, was born in NJ on 30 October 1882. He won the Navy Cross during the WWI. He learned to fly in 1935 and became one of the country's leading exponents of naval air power. In June 1940 he was promoted to vice admiral, then admiral in November 1942. **Halsey took control of naval operations during the Guadalcanal campaign (12th-13th November 1942)** and sank 2 Japanese battleships, 2 destroyers, and 6 transport ships. As commander of the South Pacific Force, he developed the strategy of amphibious landings on vulnerable islands, avoiding frontal assaults and reducing the number of American casualties. In the Leyte Gulf, Halsey had the task of destroying the main Japanese fleet. On 24



October 1944, Halsey fell into a trap when he headed north with all 64 ships to attack Admiral Ozawa. He left the San Bernardino Strait unprotected and only the actions of Vice-Admiral Kinkaid and 7th Fleet prevented a military disaster. In November 1945, he was promoted to admiral of the fleet. He retired in April 1947, and died 16th August 1959.

Carleton Wright was born in Iowa on 2 June 1892. Promoted to rear admiral in May 1942, Wright was given command of the cruiser unit under Admiral William Halsey in the South Pacific. In November 1942, he replaced Vice-Admiral Thomas Kinkaid and became head of Task Group 67. Wright took part in the action off Savo Island. Although one enemy destroyer was sunk, the Japanese Navy crippled three US Navy ships. Admiral Chester Nimitz was disappointed by Wright's performance and although Wright was awarded the Navy Cross, he was sent to Washington for a period of staff duty. He briefly commanded Cruiser Division 4 in the Marshall Islands but in January 1944 he returned to staff duty. He served as deputy commander of the Marianas (1947-48) before retiring from the US Navy in October, 1948. He died on 27 June 1970.



Douglas MacArthur, the son of the high-ranking military figure, Arthur MacArthur, was born on 26 January 1880. In WWI, he commanded the 42nd Division on the Western Front, was decorated 13 times, and cited 7 additional times for bravery. He was the youngest divisional commander in France, the youngest ever superintendent of West Point, the army's youngest general (43), and the youngest man to be appointed chief of staff of the US Army in 1930. He retired from the army in 1937. MacArthur was appointed Supreme Commander of the Southwest Pacific Area in WWII. In 1944, MacArthur was given permission to recapture the Philippines. The first objective was the capture of Leyte in Oct 44, followed by Leyte Gulf, the largest naval engagement in history. MacArthur was named Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP) and received the formal surrender of Japan. In 1950, MacArthur was appointed commander of the United Nations forces in Korea. In April 1951, Harry S. Truman removed MacArthur from this command. After leaving the Army, MacArthur was chairman of the board of the Remington Rand Corp. He died in the Water Reed Hospital on 5 Apr 64.



Matthew Ridgway, the son of Colonel Thomas Ridgway, an artillery officer, was born on 3 March 1895. In August 1942 Brig Gen Ridgway was given command of the 82nd Infantry Division, one of the Army's two parachute divisions. Ridgway helped plan the 1943 invasion of Sicily, the first time in history that the US Army had used paratroopers in battle. He planned the airborne operation during the D-Day landings on 6 Jun 44, this time, jumping with his troops. As Commander 18th Airborne Corps, he led the 1944 Rhineland invasion. On 4 Jun 45, he was promoted to Lt. Gen. After the war, Ridgway was Commander in Chief of the Caribbean Command. In 1950, he commanded the 8th Army in Korea, launching the counter-offensive on 25 Jan 51. When MacArthur was recalled in April, Gen Ridgway became Commander in Chief of the Far East Command. He replaced Eisenhower as the Supreme Allied Commander of Europe 30 May 52. In 53, he became Chief of Staff of the US Army. He retired in Jun 55 and died in Mar 93.



Paul Tibbets, the son of a prosperous businessman, was born in Quincy, Illinois, in 1915. His parents wanted him to train as a doctor but instead he had a strong desire to become a pilot. On the outbreak of the Second World War he flew 25 missions in Europe before supporting the Allied invasion of North Africa. During this period he flew the B-17 Flying Fortress. When President Harry S. Truman gave the order to drop the first atom bomb on Japan, Tibbets was selected as the pilot of the adapted B29 called the *Enola Gay*. In 1946 Tibbets was also technical adviser during the Bikini Bomb Tests. Brigadier General Tibbets also did a tour of duty with NATO in France. He retired from the United States Army Air Force on 31 August 1966. A successful businessman, Tibbets was chairman of Executive Jet Aviation (1982-85).



Holland Smith was born on 20 April 1882. After obtaining a law degree, he decided he wanted to become a soldier and joined the US Marines. During WWI, he served in France with the 5th Marine Regiment and was awarded the Croix de Guerre. Smith took command of the 1st Marine Brigade; in Sep 43, he was appointed commander of the 5th Amphibious Corps. Holland Smith was given the task of attacking the two most westerly of the Gilbert Islands, Makin and Tarawa; the capture of these two islands cost nearly 1,000 dead and 2,000 WIA. The experience convinced the Joint Chief of Staffs that Admiral Chester Nimitz was right to be selective about the islands that should be invaded. Lt Gen Smith led the US Marines on its assault of Saipan and Tinian in Jun 44. He retired May 46 after 41 years service, and died 12 Jan 67.



Raymond Spruance was born 3 July 1886. A rear admiral in 1942, he was appointed head of Cruiser Division 5 in the Pacific and served under William Halsey, Task Group 16. A nervous skin disease meant that Halsey missed the battle of Midway; Spruance led the task force that inflicted considerable damage on the Japanese Navy. In Jun 42, Spruance became chief of staff, and later deputy, to Chester Nimitz, commander of the Pacific Fleet. Spruance became head of the 5th Fleet in Sep 43 and held overall command of the assaults on the Gilbert Islands (20 Nov 43) and the Marshall Islands (31 Jan 44). In February 1944 he was promoted to full admiral. Spruance was also given the task of planning the assaults of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. In 1948 Spruance retired and served as ambassador to the Philippines (1952-55). He died 23 Dec 69.



Harold Stark was born on 12 November 1880. In Aug 39 Stark replaced William Leahy as Chief of Naval Ops. Stark suspected that the US would be drawn into WWII and persuaded Congress to start constructing a new fleet of ships. Stark clashed with President Roosevelt's decision to keep the US Pacific Fleet in Hawaii, arguing that Pearl Harbor lacked adequate repair and overhaul facilities, ammunition stocks, fuel, or rations, and they should be based on the West Coast. Stark feared a Japanese attack on the US Fleet in Hawaii but by the end of 1941 became convinced that the initial attack on the US Navy would come in the Far East. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Stark lost his post as Chief of Naval Ops and was appointed as the president's personal representative in London. In Oct 43 Stark was given command of the 12th Fleet responsibility for training US naval forces for the D-Day landings. Stark retired in 1946; he died after a heart-attack Aug 72.



Joseph Stilwell, born March 1883, served in WWI as an intelligence officer in France where he won the DSM. Stilwell had three tours of duty in China and was in the country when the Japanese Army invaded in 1937. General George Marshall arranged for him to become commander of the 7th Infantry Division in July 1940. Promoted to the rank of lieutenant general, he was sent to establish American Army Forces, China, Burma and India (CBI). On 24 Feb 44, Major General Frank Merrill and the Merrill's Marauders attacked the 18th Japanese Division in Burma. This action enabled Stilwell to gain control of the Hakawing Valley. Operation Thursday was launched in Burma on 5th March, 1944. In Aug 44 Stilwell was promoted to full general and recalled to US as head of Armed Ground Forces. He died of stomach cancer on 12 Oct 46.



Richmond Turner was born on 22 May 1885. In Oct 1940, as director of war plans at the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), he evaluated intelligence about the enemy. Turner did not believe information he received that the Japanese intended to attack on the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor and did not pass on warnings. In Jul 42, Turner was placed in command of Amphibious Forces in the South Pacific. His first major operation was the Guadalcanal campaign on 7th August. Turner disagreed with Nimitz about the plan to capture the Marshall Islands which he believed was "reckless and dangerous". Threatened with dismissal, Turner agreed to carry out the attack and as a result of the success of the campaign was promoted to the rank of vice admiral. He directed amphibious assaults on Saipan (Jun 44), Iwo Jima (Feb 45) and Okinawa (Apr 45). In June he was promoted to admiral and placed in charge of planning the invasion of Japan. He retired 30 Jun 47 and died an alcoholic on 12 Feb 61.



Jonathan Wainwright, the son of a cavalry officer, was born in Washington on 2 August 1883. In 1918 Wainwright was promoted to Chief of Staff of the 82nd Infantry Division. Later he held the same position in the 3rd US Army. Wainwright took over the 3rd Cavalry Regiment at Fort Myer in 1936. Two years later he was promoted to brigadier general and in February 1940 was sent to the Philippines to serve under General Douglas MacArthur. Wainwright was placed in command of the North Luzon Force. After MacArthur was ordered to leave Bataan and go to Australia, General Wainwright remained behind with 11,000 soldiers and managed to hold out until the beginning of May. Wainwright was captured and took part in what became known as the Bataan Death March. He remained a prisoner until the end of the War, was awarded the Medal of Honor, and on 5 Sep 45 was promoted to full general. He retired from active duty Aug 47; he died on 2 Sep 53.



Dwight David Eisenhower, the son of a small farmer, was born on 14 October 1890. After WWI, he served under Patton at Ft Meade, MD, where the two pioneers of tank warfare became close friends. He then served under Gen Pershing in France. In Feb 32, he served on staff for Gen MacArthur, and served under MacArthur in the Philippines. Ike's diaries make it clear that he did not like MacArthur. In Mar 41, he became chief of staff, 3rd Army Hqs. He impressed Gen George Marshall, U.S. Chief of Staff; and a week after Pearl Harbor was recruited to help prepare the plans for war with Japan & Germany. In Mar 42, he went to England as head of European Theatre of Operations (ETO). Recognized as an excellent coalition commander, Eisenhower was appointed head of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAPE) and was given responsibility for Operation Overlord, the invasion of Europe. In Nov 45, Eisenhower became US Army Chief of Staff. Eisenhower retired in 1948. In 1951 he returned to Europe as Supreme Commander of NATO. Although he had never identified himself with any particular political party, he accepted a Republican nomination and, on 20 Jan 53, became the first soldier-President since Ulysses Grant (1869-77). Eisenhower left party matters to his vice-president, Richard Nixon. His political philosophy was never clearly defined. Eisenhower left office as one of the most popular presidents in American history. He was admired for his integrity, modesty, strength, and a flair for conciliation. He died 28 Mar 69.





WWII Japanese Military Leaders



Masaki Honda was born in 1889. He joined the Japanese Army and in 1940 was given command of the 8th Division, followed by Armored Department (1941-43), the 20th Army (1943-44) and in April 1944 was given command of the 33rd Army in Burma. In January 1945 Honda was ordered to hold a north-south line from Lashio to Mandalay. Honda was forced to retreat through southern Burma and the British Army was able to capture Rangoon on 3rd May 1945. Masaki Honda died in 1964.



Kanji Ishihari was born 1889. He became chief of operations of the Japanese Army in March 1937 but was demoted after arguing against Japanese expansionist foreign policy. Ishihari retired from the Army in December 1938. In August 1945, Naruhiko Higashikuni, the head of the surrender government, appointed him as a special military adviser. He now controversially attacked Hideki Tojo and other former Japanese political and military leaders as war criminals. Kanji Ishihari died in 1949.



Mineichi Koga was born 1885. He was appointed vice chief of the Japanese Naval Staff Board in December 1937 and after the bombing of Pearl Harbor he took part in the capture of Hong Kong. In April 1943, Admiral Kogo replaced Isoroku Yamamoto as commander in chief of the Combined Fleet. He was unable to halt the decline in the country's fortunes and presided over the start of Japanese withdrawals from the Gilbert Islands and the Philippines. Mineichi Koga was killed when on 31st March 1944 his aircraft crashed into the sea. His death was not announced until May 1944 when he was replaced as commander in chief by Soemu Toyoda.



Takeo Kurita was born in 1889. He successfully led the amphibious assault on Java on 28th February 1942. He also directed the bombardment of Henderson Field on Guadalcanal during October 1942. The following year he suffered a disastrous defeat at the Marianas. When General Douglas MacArthur invaded the Philippines on 20th October 1944, Kurita led the campaign to oust the US troops. His plan to attack the remaining US ships in Leyte Gulf was foiled when he was attacked by two US submarines and his ship, the *Atago*, was sunk. Kurita survived, switched to the *Yamato* but believing he was outnumbered ordered his ships to disengage. Much criticized for his performance at Leyte Gulf, he died in 1977.



Akira Muto was born in 1883. He joined the Japanese Army and in 1913 he joined the General High Staff. He also served under Fumimaro Kondoye as head of the Military Affairs Bureau. Promoted to major general Muto worked as a military adviser to Hideki Tojo. In June 1943 Muto became commander of the 2nd Imperial Guards Division in Sumatra. He was transferred to the Philippines in October where he was appointed chief of staff to General Tomoyuki Yamashita. After the Second World War Muto was arrested and charged with war crimes. Akira Muto was executed on 23rd December 1948.



Chuichi Nagumo, born in 1887, eventually became commander of the Japanese 1st Naval air fleet. A strong supporter of the integration of air and sea power, **Nagumo was the director of the air attacks on Pearl Harbor on 7th December, 1941.** After the loss of four aircraft carriers at Midway Nagumo was demoted and was given command of a small naval flotilla in the Marianas. In 1944 Nagumo was given the task of organizing the defense of Saipan and committed suicide on 6Jul44 during the Allied conquest of the island.



Jisaburo Ozawao was born in 1896. In 1940 he became a vice admiral and president of the Japanese Naval Academy. After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor Ozawao became responsible for naval operations in the South China Sea. When the US Marines began landing on 15th June 1944, Ozawao was sent to rescue the situation but his fleet was badly destroyed by the US Navy. He used his crippled fleet as a decoy at Leyte Gulf and was successful at drawing Admiral William Halsey away from the San Bernardino Strait. Ozawao later commanded the Combined Fleet in Tokyo. Jisaburo Ozawao died in 1966.



Hideki Tojo was born in 1884. He joined the Japanese Army and served in Switzerland and Germany. Tojo held extreme right-wing views, and was a supporter of Nazi Germany. Tojo became prime minister in Oct 1941. He initially backed the foreign office's efforts to reach agreement with the United States. **However, when convinced that a negotiated deal was possible, ordered the attack on Pearl Harbor on 7th December, 1941.** Tojo also held the posts of minister of war, home minister, foreign minister, and Commander in Chief of the General Staff. Aware that Japan was unable to win the war, he resigned from office after the loss of Saipan in July 1944. He shot himself in the chest just before he was arrested by the US

Military in 1945. Tojo survived, was tried as a war criminal, and was executed on 23 Dec 1948.



Soemu Toyoda was born in 1885. In November 1942 he became a member of the Supreme War Council and in May 1943 he took command of the Yokosuka Naval Base. After the death of Admiral Mineichi Koga, Toyoda was appointed Commander in Chief of the Combined Fleet in May 1944. The following month he implemented Plan A-Go which resulted in heavy defeat of Jisaburo Ozawa in the Battle of the Philippine Sea (19-20 June). As a member of the Supreme War Council, Toyoda argued against Emperor Hirohito's desire for a negotiated peace after the dropping of the atom bombs in August 1945. Soemu Toyoda died in 1957.



Mitsura Ushijima was born in Japan in 1887. In August in 1940 Ushijima was appointed commander of the 32nd Army on Okinawa. Just before the US Army invasion, Ushijima was placed in control of all Japanese troops on the island. On the first day 60,000 troops were put ashore against little opposition. The following day two airfields were captured by the Americans. When it was clear that he had been defeated, U committed ritual suicide (hari-kiri) on 22 June 1945. The capture of Okinawa cost the Americans 49,000 in casualties of whom 12,520 died. More than 110,000 Japanese were killed on the island.



Isokoru Yamamoto, was born in 1884. In 1916, he was sent to the United States where he studied economics at Harvard and took a keen interest in military aviation. He directed a new air training base in Japan before being appointed as naval attaché in Washington (1925-27). He became convinced that future wars would be decided by air power and embarked on a massive new building program, increasing 445 aircraft in 1931 to 4,768 in 1940. This included fighters, torpedo-bombers and dive-bombers, and two modern aircraft carriers, *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*. However, he made a crucial mistake of not fitting Japanese ships with radar. Yamamoto was opposed the signing of the Tripartite Pact with Nazi Germany as he feared it would lead to war with the US. In early 1941, Yamamoto, under instructions from his government, began planning the war with the US. **He feared that he did not have the resources to win a long war and therefore advocated and planned the surprise attack on the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor. Yamamoto then organized the invasion of the Solomon Islands and New Guinea.** In summer 1942 Yamamoto decided to try and capture the US base on Midway Island. He devised a complex plan where the Combined Fleet was split to make a diversionary attack on the Aleutian Islands with the main fleet heading for Midway, led by Yamamoto, Nagumo, and Kondo. Unknown to Yamamoto, US intelligence service and broken the Japanese code and informed Admiral Chester Nimitz of the Japanese plans. Nimitz was able to assemble two task forces and headed for Midway. On 3 Jun 42, 100 aircraft from Nagumo's carrier force bombed Midway. The US Marine fighters were outnumbered and were unable to stop extensive damage being caused. While the Japanese aircraft were being rearmed, they were attacked by US carrier planes. *Yorktown* and *Enterprise* then arrived and scored hits on the Japanese ships, *Akagi*, *Soryu* and *Kaga*. The *Hirpu* managed to sink the *Yorktown* before it was set afire by the *Enterprise*. The Japanese Navy had now lost all four of her aircraft carriers and Yamamoto was forced to order a withdrawal. **Yamamoto now had to organize what was left of his forces to support the 15,000 Japanese troops blockaded on Guadalcanal. Attempts to land large numbers of Japanese troops ended in failure in October 1942. The naval battle at Guadalcanal (12-14 November) ended Japanese efforts to recapture the island. Yamamoto made plans to visit the Japanese controlled Bougainville on 18 April. He sent out details of his itinerary and this information was intercepted by US intelligence.** When Admiral Chester Nimitz heard the news he consulted with the Navy Secretary and Admiral William Halsey, and decided to try assassinating the man responsible for Pearl Harbor. **Operation Vengeance** began on 18Apr42, when 18 aircraft led by Major John W. Mitchell, went out to find the plane carrying Yamamoto. At 0930, Yamamoto's aircraft approached Kahili Field on **Bougainville**. Two bursts from Mitchell's guns hit the target and the Japanese aircraft crashed into the jungle. The Japanese government did not announce the death of Isokoru Yamamoto until 21May43.



Tomoyuki Yamashita, the son of a village doctor, was born in Japan in 1888. Tojo sent him to spend time with the German Army, after which he recommended that Japan needed more air power, medium tanks, and parachute units. **He also advised against going to war against the United States or Soviet Union until the Japanese forces were modernized.** In 1941 He led the invasion of Malaya and Singapore. In 1943, he was sent to command ground forces in the Philippines, but by this time Japan was clearly losing the War. He was captured on 2Sep45, was charged with violating the "laws of war", and was hanged on 23Feb48.



Hisaichi Terauchi, son of the prime minister of Japan, was born in 1879. In 1939, the army chose him as war minister. He took control of the Southern Army on 6Nov41 and soon afterwards began devising war plans with Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto. Promoted to field marshal, he moved to the Philippines in May 1944. When this area came under threat he retreated to Saigon. After receiving bad news about Burma he suffered a stroke on 10th April 1945. Terauchi surrendered to Lord Mountbatten on 12th September 1945. Kept prisoner in Malaya, he died in November 1945.



Shinichi Tanaka was born in 1893. In March 1937 Tanaka was appointed section chief of the Military Affairs Bureau. After two years in Tokyo he became chief of staff of Mongolia Garrison Army. Promoted to lieutenant general he became chief of the Military Operations Sections. **In December 1942, he was sent to reinforce Guadalcanal.** After criticizing Hideki Tojo in a conversation with a fellow officer he was demoted and posted to the Southern Army in Saigon. In March 1943 Tanaka was sent to Burma as commander of 18th Division. Abandoned by General Masaki Honda, Tanaka's men were badly defeated by General Joseph Stilwell and his troops. He was badly wounded in May 1945 but he survived the war. Shinichi Tanaka died in 1969.

Remembering Bill Love, Co D

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

I recently was going through some old photos of my father's – William L. "Bill" Love, Rugby, ND. I came across some newspaper clippings and this photo. I don't know names of any of the other soldiers, but maybe someone will recognize themselves or a buddy. I thought you might like to have this copy of the men of Co D, 164th Infantry – Heroes, each and every one! Thank you. Coleen Van Sweringen (LM)*, Camas, WA

S/Sgt. W. L. Love Gets Citation

RUGBY, N. D.—(SPECIAL)—Staff Sergeant William L. Love has received a citation for his action on Guadalcanal. Love joined the national guard in 1941 and left with Rugby's Company D in February 1942. He trained at Camp Claiborne, La. and Pendleton, Ore. before going overseas. His citation read "for meritorious conduct at Guadalcanal November 2-11. During action of his period in heavy jungle, Staff Sergeant Love assumed the duties of a platoon leader when



that officer became ill. Love discharged these duties in a highly exemplary manner and was largely responsible for efficiency with which his platoon conducted itself in the ensuing combat.

Below: The original is labeled on the back "Bill's Platoon. Taken on Guadalcanal 19 January 1943. High on a windy hill".

I know my Dad is in the middle row, 3rd from the left, smoking the cigarette.



BRONZE STARS TO N. D. HEROES

Washington, Aug. 18-(AP)—The war department announced today the following awards of the Bronze Star medal:

North Dakota:

John Moberg, First Lieut., infantry, Mapes. Meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy at Bougainville on April 19, 1944.

William L. Love, Tech., Sgt., infantry, Rugby, meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy Nov. 2-11, 1942, at Guadalcanal.

Norbert P. Ault, Staff Sgt., infantry, Cavalier. Meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy at Guadalcanal from Oct. 13, 1942, to March 1, 1943.

Ben Glatt, Staff Sgt., infantry, Hague. Meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy at Bougainville from March 29, to April 1, 1944.

Fred W. Hales, Staff Sgt., infantry, Hillsboro. Meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy Oct. 26, 1942, at Guadalcanal.

Eldred F. Welch, Staff Sgt., infantry, Bismarck. Meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy at Guadalcanal, from Oct. 13, 1942 to March, 1943.

Worth H. Emanuel Private First Class, infantry, Valley City. Meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy April 2, 1944 at Bougainville.

Jack C. Buckmeier, Private, infantry, Devils Lake. Meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy at Guadalcanal, Oct. 13, 1942.

At Right: A Company D news article from the Evelyn Hill Collection.

Hank Violet (R & below) is a current member who still resides in Leeds, ND



Get Discharges



Violet

Schlieve

LEEDS, N. D. (SPECIAL) —Two Leeds men, S/Sgt. Henry Violet and T/Sgt. Charles Schlieve, have received honorable army discharges and are home after 39 months service in the South Pacific. Both men enlisted in the national guard and left with Company D of the 164th infantry, training at Camp Claiborne in pre-Pearl Harbor days.

They saw action in the battles of Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Cebu and south Philippines and have numerous decorations for their service.

Violet, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Violet of Leeds, has a brother, Jack Violet, AMM3/c, in England and a brother-in-law, Orvis Mickelson, GS, serving with the fleet in the Pacific. Schlieve's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schlieve of Leeds. Two brothers, Calvin L. COX, is at Norfolk, Va., and Pvt. Vincent Schlieve is at Fort Bliss, Texas.

As you can see, newspaper clippings can help tell the "rest of the story" and will sometimes include names that can help other families with their historical research. If you find old news clippings about 164th service members, please share them with our readers. All items will be scanned & returned. All items will eventually be placed in the 164th Infantry Archives at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. Please mail or email them to your Editor!

Amoroso: Company E Connections

Years after Dominick Amoroso, Jr., started posting notices on the internet, he has made the 164th connections he sought. He has talked with his Dad's entire Chain of Command and learned, among other things, the exact squad and platoon of Co E in which his Dad served. This may help someone put more names on the faces in the 1944 photo at Bougainville (right). Dom says his Dad proudly served in the 164th 1943-45: New Caledonia, Fiji, Bougainville, Cebu, Leyte, Negros, and on to Yokohama & Tokyo in 1945.



3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Co E - 1944



Above Right, 2008 Reunion: **Company E 2nd Platoon Sergeant Robert J. Jeffrey;** Commander **Charles H. Walker;** & 2nd Platoon Leader **Charles Ross** display the WWII Company E Guidon donated to the 164th Assoc. by Dom Amoroso, Jr., (pictured at left) who holds a flag taken by his father at Bougainville. It displays names of some Co E KIA and holds many of the same signatures as the Colbert flag, which was featured in the July 2007 "Flags of our Fathers" issue of the *News*.



Amoroso, Sr.



Photos collected by Dominick Amoroso, Sr, during the course of the war.

Photo 1: Lt. Col. Army. Decorations L-R: Order of the Rising Sun 4th Class; Order of the Sacred Treasure 5th Class; Hirohito enthronement commemoration, 1925; China incident, 1934; Probably 1914-1920 Service medal; Commemoration of 2600 years of imperial rule. **Photo 2:** 2nd Lt. Army. Sword is Type 94 (1934) with company grade tassel (brown & blue). **Photo 3:** Capt. Army. Sword is Type 94 with company grade tassel. Threads above pocket and below button are for attaching medals and qualification badges. **Photo 4:** Enlisted rank, prep school insignia (military cadet). Sword is Type 94 with foul weather cover, tassel is plain brown. "M" on right breast denotes branch (this was discontinued in 1941), looks like yellow for artillery. Belt is a typical officer's dress belt with sun embossed in center circle. **Photo 5:** Military cadet. Type 94 sword with tassel. Standard officer dress belt.

Thanks to Col (ret) Al Schudt for the interpretation of ranks, medals, and accoutrements in these photos.



GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

UNDEFENSIVE 1959



Roughrider Award for Woodrow W. Keeble

Story and Photographs by Bill Prokopyk



On July 23, 2008, Master Sergeant Woodrow "Woody" Wilson Keeble formally became the 36th recipient of the North Dakota Theodore Roosevelt Roughrider award at a ceremony at the Dakota Magic Casino Convention Center, Hankinson, N.D.

The award is presented to individuals who have achieved national recognition, reflecting credit and honor upon the state and its citizens.

Members of the 164th Infantry Association attended the ceremony after receiving invitations from Governor Hoeven.

Portraits of all 36 Rough Rider awardees are on display in Memorial Hall at the N.D. state capitol. For more information on the award, please visit: governor.nd.gov/awards/rr-gallery/



Above left: Keeble's official portrait by Minot artist Vern Skaug honors Keeble's selection as a Rough Rider Award recipient.

Above right: Keeble's step-son Russell Hawkins receives a copy of the portrait from Gov. John Hoeven.

Left: Keeble's 'Ike' jacket, helmet with a bullet hole, and a shawl in memory of his wife, Blossom. Also, traditional eagle feather warrior headdress presented posthumously to Keeble by the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux to honor his courage; it has never been worn.

Australian Peter Flahavin: Modern Day History Hunter

GUADALCANAL 1942-1943

Associate member Scott Legaard found **Peter Flahavin** on "the web" and introduced him to your Editor through email. Peter is an avid history buff who lives in Australia and has just returned from his 7th trip to the battlefields of Guadalcanal. Scott sent Peter a copy of the DVD of **John Hagen's (Co B)** 8mm color footage of 1942 Guadalcanal, and Peter took the time to match individual frames of the video to his photographs. He's also taken his landscape photos and matched them with old maps and battle histories to form a kind of modern day travelogue of the 1942 battles. At left, Flahavin stands on a beach that shows similar terrain features to the 1942 Hagen video inset. Shown are some photos and descriptions. There will more in future issues!



TENTS on Hill 66: The Hagen video showed tents on a ridge with Savo in the background. I don't know the exact hill the 1942 tent camp was on, but my guess would be Hill 66, which is where I took this comparison shot. This was the 164ths area and the front line was static here between Nov 42-Jan 43. If the tents weren't here, they weren't too far away. You can still see foxholes on hill 66.

BELOW Right: Another shot I took on hill 66 in 2006. My friend Ewan from New Zealand dug up most of the foxholes when he lived there in the 1980s. Old villagers told him that as late as 1958 the whole area was still strewn with bit of clothing, weapons, and bones. Even as late as 1983, Ewan dug up a foxhole with a Japanese skeleton wearing glasses still in residence.

I like Hill 66 because you get the real panoramic view of the whole area. Troops there had ringside seats to watch any naval action and bombing raids on Henderson or the Kukum supply beaches. When you read the literature it's hard to get a grasp of some of the terrain and what guys could or could not see from various locations. **BELOW:** taken a bit further down Hill 66. Friends Sue & Bill are very pleased that they had just found the 81mm mortar ammo tin lid. As I looked at the mortar footage from the Hagen video (insets), once again it was a "guestimate" as to where it was taken. It might have been down on the reverse slopes.



Saluting Laudie Hanel, Co D

NORTHERN SOLOMONS 1943-1944

Dear Editor: My best friend is a resident of St. Luke's home in Dickinson. I try and visit him every day. Next door to my friend is **Laudie Hanel**, who tells me he does not belong to the 164th Infantry Association. He is 91 and wheel chair bound. Enclosed is a copy of a story about Laudie from the 17 July 2008 issue of the Dickinson Press – I hope you can include it in the 164th Infantry News. Enclosed I my check to pay for the Association annual dues for Laudie so that he can be on the mailing list for our Newsletter. Thank you for the reminder in the July newsletter for the Korean Vets to get their stories sent to you. That will be my next letter to you. Sincerely, **Leroy Hamre (LM)(K) Co M**, Dickinson, ND

Editor: National Archives Records and the ND "Red Book" indicate that Laudie was drafted in 1942 at Ft Snelling and joined the 164th at Camp Claiborne. Company D was headquartered in Rugby, ND.

Lifestyle

Thursday, July 17, 2008 The Dickinson Press Page A9

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Veteran receives medals in belated ceremony

Laudie Hanel is recognized for service during World War II

By Linda Sailer
lsailer@thedickinsonpress.com

World War II veteran Laudie J. Hanel, 91, of Dickinson received the Bronze Star and several campaign awards during a presentation on Sunday, June 29. The awards were in recognition of his military service, but he never received them upon his discharge.

The surprise ceremony was initiated by his family. Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., presented the Bronze Star while his children presented the other awards.

"The Bronze Star is awarded for meritorious achievement while engaged against an enemy of the United States," said Laudie's son, Harvey Hanel.



L. Hanel

The other awards included the Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge-First Award and Honorable Service Lapel Button-World War II.

The Hanel family includes Harvey, Bismarck; Don, Dickinson; Lorraine Kudrna, South Heart and Ilene Gill, Eugene, Ore., and their families.

Ilene's husband, Steve, is credited with initiating the research and documenting Laudie's years

of service.

The family believes the medals were never presented for several reasons. Laudie wasn't present when the medals were awarded because he was hospitalized. And while the other veterans may have received their awards later on, Laudie's military records were destroyed in a fire.

Hanel grew up on a farm northwest of New Hradec. He joined Company D of the 164th Infantry in February of 1941 at Dickinson and became a private first class.

He was assigned as a second machine gunner and carried a .50 caliber shore defense machine gun. Company D was a weapons company and was often called "heavy weapons."

After training at Camp Claiborne, La., Company D was shipped by rail to San Francisco for deployment overseas to Melbourne, Australia.

The 164th landed on the shores of Guadalcanal in October 1942 to join the battle-weary Marines. The North Dakotans became the first Army unit to take offensive action against the Japanese. They played a very strategic role while they occupied their territory.

Hanel said his father was reluctant to talk about the war.

"Many, many years later he started talking about his experi-



Courtesy Photos

World War II veteran Laudie Hanel is shown with his family, standing from left, Don Hanel, Lorraine Kudrna, Ilene Gill and Harvey Hanel.

ences. He told me that his responsibility was a second machine gunner. It was his responsibility to feed ammo into the machine gun," said Harvey.

Laudie said it was fairly common for the machine guns to overheat and block up.

"He tells one story where he was desperately trying to cool down the machine gun to get it working again," said Harvey. "Aside from the machine gun, they carried a .45 caliber revolver...they were expected to lug the machine gun around."

Company D was transferred to the Fiji Islands for rest and reinforcements. From there, the company was shipped to Bougainville — part of Papua, New Guinea — to relieve the Third Marines.

As the war in Europe was coming to an end with the surrender of Germany, the military shifted to the Pacific and it was there that Laudie and the others of the 164th received the notice that their days in the jungle were drawing to an end. As an infantry regiment, the 164th served in combat for long periods of time during the war with only short periods of rest.

During his tour of service, Laudie was hospitalized for malaria and yellow fever. He was discharged in 1945.

The war experiences were believed to have made a change in Laudie's personality.

"I think the biggest change was due to combat or Yellow Fever. We've talked to relatives who knew him before and what he was like afterwards. Before he was a



Laudie Hanel, seated, is shown with Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., during the awarding of medals at Dickinson's St. Luke's Home. Standing behind his dad is Don Hanel.

happy-go-lucky, joking kind of guy. He came back as a very serious individual," said Harvey.

Laudie married Dorothy Kovash in 1946 and they were just shy of their 60th wedding anniversary when Dorothy died.

Harvey said the family is very proud of their father.

"Once he finally was able to talk

about it, we enjoyed listening to a little bit of stories he did share," said Harvey.

He said the awards presentation is a fitting thank you for his years of service.

"...Not only for him, but it was a tremendous generation of individuals who put themselves out there," he said.

Whatever Happened to.....Company "J" ???

In 1816, after the Mexican War, the army reorganized the official designation of infantry companies by using the letters A thru I, and K thru M, but avoided the letter "J". (The 164th had no Company J, for example). Do you think you know why? Make a choice below and see if you're right!

- It is not used as a tribute to, and remembrance of, Gen George Custer's massacred Company J
- J was often confused with the letter "I" when written in official documents.
- In the military phonetic alphabet, J is "Juliet" and infantry generals would not accept that nickname.
- None of the above.

The answer came from official US Army literature: ARMY LINEAGE SERIES; INFANTRY Part I: Regular Army, by John K. Mahon/Romana Danysh, Office of the Chief of Military History, US Army, Wash, DC, 1972, Library of Congress CCN: 74-610219, full text is available at <http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/books/Lineage/in/infantry.htm>

The answer is that penmanship was the culprit. Yes, *penmanship*. B is the correct answer. Back in 1816, all documents were handwritten and the capital "J" was often confused with the capital letter "I" in cursive. This is the same reason there is no "J Street" in Wash, DC, and why "I Street" was frequently written "Eye Street" to distinguish it from its other nemesis--1st St. (Maybe they should have kept "J" instead!)

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Woody Keeble Medal of Honor



65 Years Since Bougainville...

"Throughout the course of American history, courageous men and women have taken up arms to secure, defend, and maintain these core principles upon which our Nation's freedoms depend." George Bush

Thank You

for your service & sacrifice

Let the News tell your story.

Each story, photo, or newspaper clipping is a piece of 164th history that should be preserved.

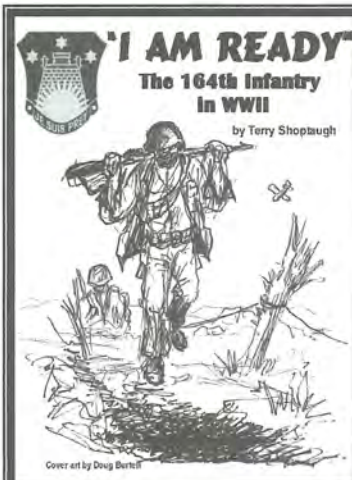
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Or email: Editor164InfantryNews@hotmail.com



164's Book: "I Am Ready"

Contact the author:
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218-477-2343
Emailshoptaug@mnstate.edu

Chapters are posted at
www.mnstate.edu/shoptaug



AWOLs?

Please take a look at the names on the AWOL list on page 37. If you have any info about any of these members, please let us know.

Coming in March:

~More Reunion Photos~
~More Bougainville Stories~
~Pinhole Camera pictures~
~Party on the Maatsuyker~
~Your letters to the Editor~
Please contribute!

Note: This October 2008 issue of the *News* was published and mailed in January 2009. Your Editor apologizes for the delay.

DUES, NEWS, & VIEWS FROM MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Received the 164th newsletter today. Great as always. I noticed that DeMaria is listed as AWOL. One of my Retired Federal Employees namely Frank Di Maria (one letter difference) died on June 15th. He lived in Lakeview, NY, about 5 miles from my house. Would it be the same person? I notice also that my two daughters are listed as AWOL. I'll send a check for their renewal. I'm scheduled for hernia surgery sometime in August. Also going to Lake Placid for a week early in August. I lived and worked at the VA Hospital in that area some 50 years ago. So long for now. Ed edbartz1914@webtv.net

1st Sgt Edward Bartz (LM)(WWII) Co M, Hamburg, NY
Editor: Our Frank DeMaria is from Ohio. Anybody know why he'd be late with his dues?

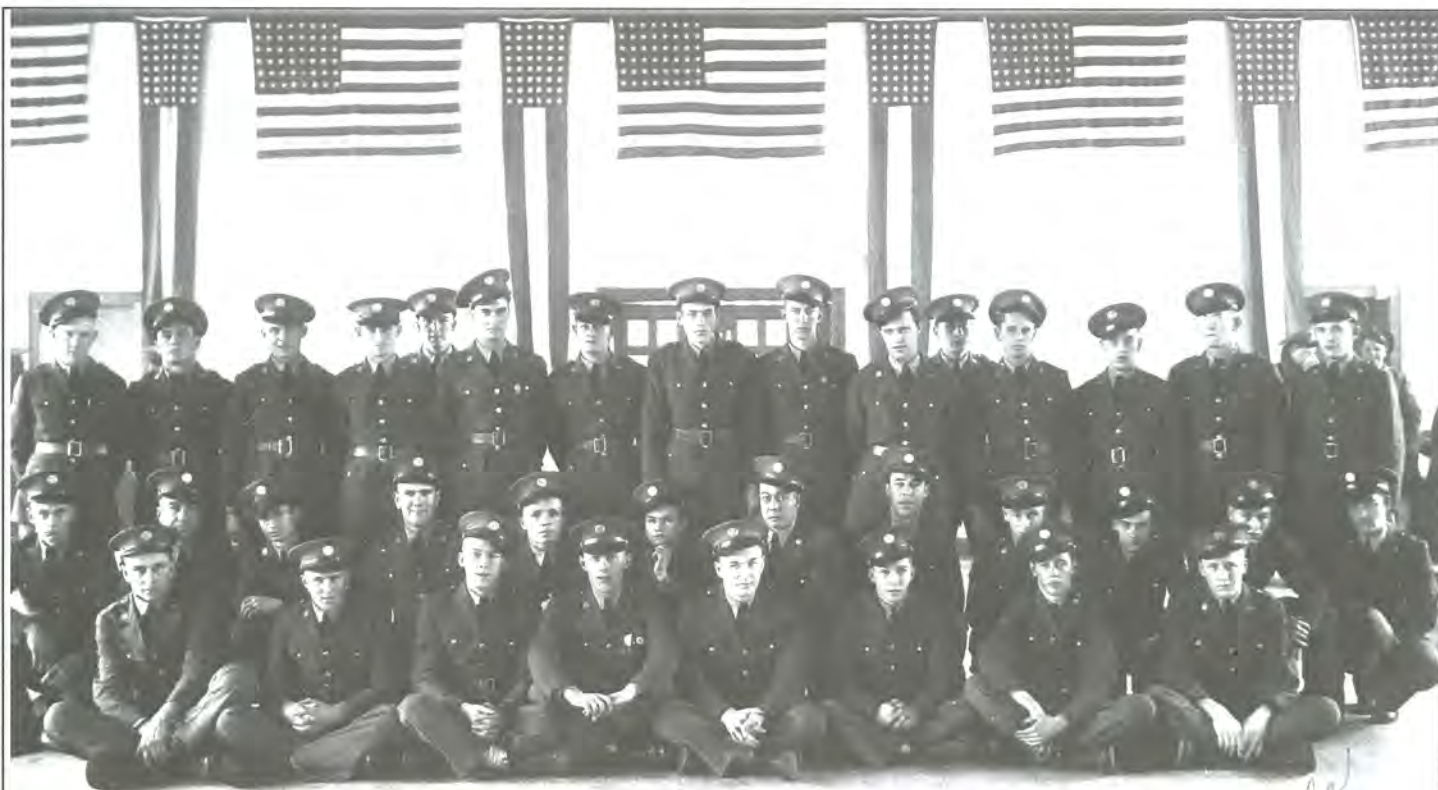
Whoops! On page 21 of the July 2008 issue of the 164th News, you did write a very nice article about my participation on Guadalcanal; however, I was never in the Band. I was with Co B as a runner. I carried messages from Battalion to the front lines and back again. **Vince R. Powers, Co B, Hamilton, Montana**

Hi Shirley: Just received the July News Letter and a couple of things occurred to me: 1. I note I haven't paid dues. Will do! 2. Great story about **Joe E. Brown**. I knew him well in



1939, along with his son Don, as we were both in R.O.T.C. and received our Commissions at that time.

Third, I have attached a copy of the same picture that is on page 20 (July issue). From left to right ---- LTC **Bill Considine**; Warrant Officer **Harry Schleh**; Next, I don't know; LTC **Ben Northridge**; Maj **Yancey** (Medical Officer); CPT **Fred Flo**; Next, I don't know; Next Staff Sgt **Russell Opat**. The Rank behind were all Purple Hearts, while the front four were Silver Stars. **Brig Gen (Ret) Fred Flo, Reg't Hqs, San Clemente, California**



Shirley, looking at the Chapter 5 draft of the 164th book on the Shoptaugh website*, I saw a photo of **Co E** men with **John Stannard** in the front row 4th from right. Then I realized my Uncle **Ole Legaard** was kneeling on the far left (1st man), middle row. I wonder if this is a rifle platoon? There are 35 men, which could make the platoon. If so, these guys were in the thick of it on Guadalcanal. **Charles Grytness** is 4th from left middle row. **Coral Haagenson** is 5th from right middle row. **Sherman Yerigan** is 2nd from right back row. Blake **Kerbaugh's** dad, **Lester**, is in the back row, 6th from right. **Elwood** is sending me the book that **John Stannard** wrote about the battle of **Coffin Corner**. Sgt **Stannard** was shot through both cheeks on Guadalcanal, but didn't lose one tooth. **Elwood** was with 4th platoon down in the flat field area; **Ole** was with 1st or 2nd platoon farther up in the jungle, **Elwood** said. They lost track of each other for quite some time on Guadal after the battle for **Henderson Field**. **Scott Legaard***, Coer D'Alene, ID

*To access the draft chapters, go to www.mnstate.edu/shoptaugh then Click "164th Infantry in World War II" link.

DUES, NEWS, & VIEWS FROM MEMBERS & FRIENDS

I'm sorry that I am not able to attend the reunion of the 164th Infantry. However, I am certain it will be a most successful and enjoyable reunion. **Frank Borreca, (WWII) Sgt, Co M, Houston, TX** [see story Page 13]

I'm unable to attend the reunion this year. I enjoyed last year's reunion. Will be thinking of you all. Enclosed is \$50 for tickets and dues; the rest to the Newsletter. Yours, **Bill Zettler (K) Reg't Hqs, Northglenn, CO**

Dear Bernie and Friends: Wishing you every success, and a good time at this year's reunion. Wishing you all God's Love and Grace. **Bob Alin (LM)(K), West Fargo, ND.** P.S. If we win, the gift goes to the Ass'n.

Bernie: Enclosed find my check for \$10 dues for **LTC (ret) Walter J. Mellam**, and please sent him the July issue of the 164th Infantry News. Walt served in the Regiment at Camp Rucker and I'm sure he'll enjoy reading about it. Congrats to you on your efforts on behalf of MSgt Keeble and for representing the Association and the Guard at the ceremonies. **Lowell W. Lundberg, (LM)(K) LTC (ret), Fargo**

Bernie & all: Sorry I will not be at the reunion in Sept. Have a great reunion and I plan to be there in 2009. If I win a drawing,, donate it to the Ass'n. **Vern Fetch (LM) Svc Co, Mandan**

I can't come to the reunion this year, but would sure like to. **Cliff Ottinger (WWII) Svc Co, Corvallis, MT**

I believe in our Newsletter. **Lorraine F. Cecil [Jim] (LM)*, Bemiji, MN**

Dear Bernie. I miss going to the reunions. Hope you have a good time, and say 'Hello' to everyone for me. My wife is too sick to travel. **Nicholas Ostapchuk, (LM)(WWII), 1st Sgt, Co B, Rochester, NY**

Thank you for sending the reunion information, but am so sorry I'll not be able to attend. Am enclosing a check for tickets, and will be thinking of all of you. Enjoy the Reunion! Hope you have great weather, too. **Pat Kjelland [Hamlin] (LM)*, Gig Harbor, WA**

I am confined to a Nursing Home in a motorized wheelchair because of a spinal cord stroke. I wish everyone who gets to go to the reunion a very enjoyable time. Best of luck for a large crowd and keep up the good work on the Newsletter...it is much appreciated. Yes, I would like to purchase the 2 books of raffle tickets for the 164th Reunion. **Paul E. Dickerson (WWII), Co A/B, North Canton, OH**

Do you have a Bougainville Story? Send it in!!

Bernie—Want to be there for the reunion, but the wife and I don't travel anymore—too old! Have a good time. **Ray Ellerman (WWII) Co ?, Las Vegas, NV**

Best wishes for a successful reunion. My thoughts will be with you all. Thanks for a great Newsletter. Keep up the very good work. Enclosed \$15 for the raffle and \$15 for the News. God Bless you all! **Andy Trageser (WWII), Co E, New Park, PA**

Sorry we can't attend. But will have you all in our thoughts during the reunion. **Dan Heisler (LM)(K), Tank Company (Medium), Devils Lake, ND**

Am enclosing check, \$10 for tickets, \$10 donation. Hope you have a great reunion. **Dorothy Gleason* [Joe, passed 10Oct06], Lincoln, IL**

Sorry I can't attend the reunion. Enclosed is \$15 for 2 books of tickets plus \$10 for the paper. Thanks for the great work! **Jane Rothrock* [Ralph], Seal Beach, CA**

Will not be attending the reunion this year. Best regards to all, especially **Headquarters Company** and **2nd Battalion Hqtrs.** Sincerely, **Raymond F. Sinkbeil (WWII), Medicine Lodge, KS**

Sorry I can't be there for the reunion. I'll be in Oklahoma City that weekend because one of my children is getting married. But I'll be there in spirit. I enjoyed the 2006 reunion. Met lots of wonderful people. I hope I can be there next year. Say hello to my friend, **Treumann Lykken.** He was the only one I met from Company C. If anyone was in the **Philippines** in C Co, I'd like to hear from them. I'm going to the west coast reunion, I hope to see someone there from Company C. Is there a roster of Co

C? I was wounded 2 times in the Philippines. I get paid every month, but received no Purple Heart. Quackenbush (?) and Odom and were there when I got wounded. You are doing a great job on the news letter; keep them coming, we enjoy them. I remain your friend, **Ben J. Rosalez (WWII) Co C, 4317 Belle Dr, Antioch, CA 94509**
Editor: A "west coast reunion"? Where and when? The 164 mailing roster lists the following members of Co C: **LTC Tony Hannel (LM), San Carlos, CA; Fred Klein (LM), Fair Play, SC; Treumann Lykken, Grand Forks, ND; Marvin Mauch (LM), Lowry, MN; Ervin Remmers (LM), Orange, CA; Chester Sawyer (LM), Amesbury, MA.**

Do you have unit rosters or orders with lists of names? Please send a copy to the Editor. Thanks!

Monkey Patrols Mess Hall

WITH THE AMERICAN INFANTRY DIVISION, PHILIPPINES—(P)—A monkey and her great dislike for children has solved a big problem round the 164th infantry's regimental headquarters company mess hall.

Hordes of Filipino children, with a special liking for C-ration stew, bully beef and sausage, besieged the enlisted men's mess and disrupted each meal for days. Sgt. Michael Barry of Albert Lea, Minn., and Corp. Roy Thorselius of Chicago, the cooks, couldn't control the children and things were in an uproar until "Felicia" joined the outfit.

"Felicia," a tiny monkey, was picked up by the non-coms as a pet. From the outset she went into rages when children were about. The cooks fitted her up with a band marked MP—"monkey patrol"—and gave her enough rope to cover the mess hall perimeter. Now the GIs eat in peace.

This cute newspaper article was sent in by Evelyn Hill*, Grand Forks, ND

DUES, NEWS, & VIEWS FROM MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$25 for the 2 books of tickets, and for one more book. We are sorry that we will not be attending this year's reunion. I doubt if we will be attending any more, as I am finding it rather hard to get around now. I have been spending a lot of time with doctor appointments and tests. Wishing you the best of luck with the reunion and give my best to all. Sincerely,
Peter H. Grant (LM)(WWII)(K), Co G/E, Eau Claire, WI

Your reunion sounds like an event to attend in the future. My Dad and Grandfather are from Hillsboro, ND, and I would like to visit there as well. Enclosed \$25 to support your ticket sales and also renew my newsletter for 2009. Thanks.
Steven J. Baglien*, Lacey, WA

Thank you for the excellent News bulletin I am returning one set of raffle ticket. I live on a fixed income, but I do want to support the 164th as best I can.
Charlotte M. Engstrom (LM)*, Moorhead, MN

I wish to renew my membership for the 164th for 2009. Also \$15 for raffle tickets, and \$20 for the Newsletter, which is great. I enjoy it very much. Thank you very much for all you do.
Betty Anderson*, West Fargo, ND

Bernie: We will be unable to attend the reunion again this year, but want to send our greetings to all who do, and to extend our thanks and appreciation to you and others for your efforts in organizing another successful and enjoyable reunion. Please give my best regards to any H Company and 2nd Battalion members who are attending, as well as Anti-Tank people. Special thanks to the Editor and others involved in publishing the 164th News Letter. It is better than ever and most enjoyable. We hope to visit ND again and maybe the timing will be right for next year's reunion. Regards.
Dick Hamer (WWII) AT Co, Melbourne, FL

Enclosed are my tickets. I will not be able to attend this year. Check for \$10 to cover tickets and the extra for keeping up the excellent news letter!
Osborne J. "Ozzie" Arlien (K), HHC 2nd Bn, Howard Lake, MN

Here are stubs for the raffle and check for \$25. If I win, return the money to the 164th to help keep things going. Enjoy your September reunion.
Linda Breitenstein*, Vancouver WA, daughter of John H Tuff, Co M

Sorry, unable to attend the reunion this year, but my thoughts and prayers for a successful affair will be with you all. \$15 for tickets, and the rest as you wish, and put winnings back to the 164th if I win. The 164th News is my favorite reading. An Old Comrade,
Otto E. Heath (WWII) (LM), Co M, Anaheim, CA

Enclosed find check for 2 books of tickets and dues. Sorry we won't be able to make it to the reunion.
Gail K Landes (WWII) Co E, Missoula, MT

Enclosed is a check for \$25. Use it for dues, newsletter, or wherever needed. The reunion date conflicts with a family reunion and wedding so I will be unable to attend.
Duane Zimmerman (K) Co F, Urbandale, IA

The newsletter is GREAT!! Thanks to all involved!
Ruth Engbrecht (LM)*, Hobbs, NM

\$15 for tickets and \$10 for the Newsletter. I will be thinking of you and remembering good times in the past.
Eleanora Collins (LM)*, Madison, MN

I'm sending \$15 for the raffle tickets and an extra \$5 for the newsletter. If I should win anything, please add it to the \$5 for the news.
Betty Burns (LM)*, Castle Rock, WA

Again, I will not be able to attend the reunion, and I'll miss being there. Enclosed find \$15 for raffle tickets and \$50 for Newsletter. I am wishing the reunion to be a great success as always. In friendship,
Harry Dolniuk (WWII) (LM), Co K, Augusta, GA

I'm sorry Irene and I cannot make it to the reunion. It seems like something always comes up to keep us from attending. Hopefully we will make it next year. Enclosed \$30 for tickets and the rest for the Newsletter. Thanks to all of the Association and Reunion Committee members for their work in keeping the 164 Association alive.
Donald Jensen (LM)(Co ?), Bismarck, ND

I will not be coming to the reunion this year. I'm slowing down a little I was 90 years old in June.
Robert Carr (WWII)(LM) Co B, Oakland, CA

Apologies to Annmarie Settingsgard, who signed up as an Associate Life Member in 2003, then somehow was not added to the roster. She found us on the internet and writes, "You can't imagine how glad I am that I have heard from you. I have heard the names of so many of the members all my life. (Really, I was born when my Dad was overseas.) By the way, if you hear of some one who tried call me, please get their number. I received a call, and as I am very hard of hearing, I wasn't able to understand the caller. However, after thinking about it, I think it was someone from the association calling about my Dad! I thought it was from a company but when they asked if I was "Oliver's daughter", I should have known better. I will call them from my "special" phone if you ever solve the mystery!"
Annmarie Settingsgard (LM)*, Simi Valley, CA (address Page 37)

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

If you notify us that a member has passed, please try to include a photograph as a tribute to our departed friend/comrade. A copy of the obit is very helpful.

I wanted to let my fellow soldiers know we lost another friend and soldier on August 6, 2008. **Byron B. Burdette** was a Staff Sgt in the 164th Infantry, Co A, 1st Platoon. I served with Byron in **Bougainville** and the **Philippines** and I have stayed in contact with him for the past 8 years. He was a good soldier and a good friend and it was an honor to have served with him and the 164th Infantry. I will miss talking to him on the phone.
Wm H Dailey, Co A, 2nd Plt.

Lucille M. Smith, (LM)*, died 8 April 2007 at her home in Washington. *There were 21 Smith's in the mobilization rosters for WWII; does anyone know who her spouse was?*

Scott Osborne*, son of Ben Osborne, Co B, passed away 24 July 2006. Scott was a retired Navy Master Chief Damage Controlman.

NEW MEMBERS

Laudie Hanel (WWII) Co D, St. Lukes Home, 242 10 St W, Dickinson, 58601

Walter J. Mellem (K) [CPT, Cdr Co H at Mobilization] (Editor—I was notified at time of this printing of his recent passing).

NEW MEMBERS JOINED FOR LIFE!!

Howard Wander (LM), WWII Co G, Suite 202, 515 Roosevelt Way, Westbury, NY 11590-6684

MEMBERS WHO RENEWED FOR LIFE!!

Herbert Schultz (LM)(K), Co E, 12350 48th St NE, Petersburg, ND 58272 [Also Brother of Clarence, WWII, AntiTank]

MSG Carl Mattingly (LM)(K)(1949-55), Co E, 802 W Florida Ave, Nampa ID 83686

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS* (identified by *)

Dorothy Elvrum (LM)*, Prairieview, 83 Lincoln Ave, Underwood, ND 58576 [Widow of Russ Elvrum, Co B]

Genevieve Goven*, 1474 Chautauqua Blvd, Valley City ND 58072 (Father was Dr. John Goven, Medics)

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS JOINED FOR LIFE!!

James Anderson (LM)*, 631 6th St West, West Fargo, ND 58078 [Uncle was Carl Vettel, 2nd Lt, Co L KIA 11/21/42]

Thomas Goven (LM)*, 1474 Chautauqua Blvd. Valley City, ND 58072 [Father was Dr. John Goven, Medics]

Robert W. Beer (LM)*, 33261 27th Ave SW, Federal Way, WA 98023-2705 [Son of Tony Beer, H2, AntiTank, Co K]

Gene Jensen (LM)*, 3501 W 42nd Ave, Kennewick, WA 99337 [son of Eugene T Jensen, WWII Co G (see pg 14)]

Dr. David Legaard (LM)*, 4770 W. Gale Rd, Smithville, MO 64089 [son of Ole Legaard, WWII Co E]

ADDRESS CHANGES

Lloyd Anderson, 14305 123rd Ave Ct E, Payallup, WA 98374-9677

George Dahlen (K), P.O. Box 276, Edmore, ND 58330

Rosella Kessler*, 2280 Dockery Ave, Room 15, Selma, California 93662

WELCOME BACK! [SEE LETTER ON PAGE 36]

Annmarie Settingsgard (LM)*, 3166 Lori Circle, Simi Valley, CA 93063 [daughter of 1LT Oliver Settingsgard, Co C]

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS!

Alin, Robert	10	Coffey, Herbert	10	Goodman, Lewis	5	Kurtz, Tim	10	Ostapchuk, Nicholas	5	Summers, Kevin	5
Anderson, Betty	20	Collins, Eleanora	10	Grant, Pete	10	Leadbetter, Dwayne	10	Otmar, Joe	5	Trageser, Andrew	25
Aufero, Ernest	5	Cruse, Robert	20	Gregory, John	5	Lee, Susan	15	Otto, Eddie	10	Tuff, Edith	5
Avens, Luella	10	Cruz, Cresencio	15	Guzie, Paul	5	Lenzmeier, Ralph	5	Paulson, John	5	Tuff, William	35
Baglien, Don	5	Curran, James	5	Hall, Lois	5	Longaberger, Paul	50	Pfarr, Millie	10	Ventsch, Warren	5
Bartz, Edward	10	Dahl, Francis	5	Heath, Otto	50	Longmuir, Jerry	35	Powers, James	5	Vettel, Thomas	5
Beatini, Michael	5	Dahl, Sonja	5	Heinz, Greg	15	Love, Robert	5	Privratsky, Agnes	5	Votava, Frank	5
Beer, Robert	10	Dalzell, Louis	5	Herman, Curt	5	Lykken, Treumann	10	Privratsky, James	25	Wagner, Chuck	10
Benzinger, John	5	Doctor, Don	5	Hesch, Duane	5	Lystad, Ken	15	Remmers, Ervin	15	Wagner, Paulette	10
Boisen, Lawrence	35	Dodd, Robert	5	Hill, Evelyn	10	MacDonald, Alex	25	Renschler, Harry	10	Waldhauser, Gerald	10
Bork, Melvin	5	Dolyniuk, Harry	50	Hintz, Robert	5	Marchant, Leland	5	Risser, Harold	5	Walker, Catherine	5
Borreca, Frank	85	Drew, Fred	5	Hoff, Dolores	10	Martin, Albert	40	Rosalez, Ben	5	Weber, Lloyd	25
Bostrom, Gordon	10	Eide, Frank	5	Holly, Earl	10	Massee, Hugh	5	Rothrock, Jane	10	Weber, Rhiny	5
Bragdley, Claire	5	Eisenzimmer, Ray	5	Isenberg, Beverly	5	McAndrews, Joan	5	Sanderson, Gerald	15	Welander, Bill & Jennie	10
Breitenstein, Linda	10	Eimbrecht, Ruth	35	Jarvis, James	5	McKean, Verdinal	5	Schamsowske, Ray	10	Well, D.W.	20
Brodie, Warren	5	English, Tom	5	Jensen, Donald	15	McMahon, Douglas	10	Schmaltz, Arthur	5	Wichman, L.G.	5
Buckle, James	5	Engstrom, Charlotte	15	Kerbaugh, Blake	23	Miltnerberger, Adam	5	Schmaltz, Arthur	82	Wichmann, Wendell	100
Burd, Jouce	5	Evans, T.R.	30	Kerbaugh, Walter	5	Nearhood, Horace	5	Schultz, Herbert	5	Wood, Ralph	15
Burgad, Carmen	10	Evenson, Donald	5	Kessler, El	10	Nelson, Dale	5	Scolavino, Gene	5	Wood, Wayne	5
Burkhart, Carl	5	Fenelon, James	5	Kessler, Elroy	40	Noller, Gary	5	Shaver, Ken	40	Woodworth, Susan	5
Burns, Eugene	5	Fetch, Vern	5	Kessler, Eva	5	Oehlke, Ralph	5	Simpkins, Mary	20	Wozniak, John	5
Buttke, Paul	35	Flexhaug, Charlotte	5	Kessler, Rosella	5	Olson, Kathy	5	Sinkbell, Raymond	25	Zettler, William	25
Carr, Robert	35	Fuller, Roger	35	Klava, S.J.	5	Olstad, David	5	Sinner, George	5	Zimmerman, Duane	5
Castagneto, Joe	200	Gehrman, Frances	5	Korsmo, Gen	5	Opat, Gail	5	Skogley, Gerald	15		
Cecil, Lorraine	85	Geston, John	5	Krupich, Richard	5	Opdahl, Gerald	5	Stevens, Richard	50		
Chemistruck, Steve	35	Gleason, Dorothy	10	Kurtz, Balzer	30	Osborne, Arlien	35	Sturn, Anton	20		

AWOLS AWOLS AWOLS AWOLS

Albrecht, Frank 07	Edwards, Lance 07	Hendrickson, Ruby 06	Kuczko, George T 06	Poe, Eurette	Straka, Max 06
Anderson, Lloyd 06	Emrah, John 06	Hilfer, Sherry 07	Lander, Victor 07	Rustad, Theo 07	Syme, Casandra 06
Beilke, Martin 07	Etcheverry, John 07	Jones, Phillip 07	Legaard O.N. Ole 07	Schleicher, Pat 07	Thorfinnson, M 07
Cascio, Nicholas 07	Fischer, Paul 07 UTF	Juan, Joe 07	Liffriq, Duane 07	Scolavino, Gene 07	Turner, Alexander 07
Christians Stanley 07	Flo, Fred 07	Jurgens, Joan 07	Minks, Marion 07	Shine, Joni 07	Wachter, Jeffrey 06
Davis, Michael 06	Freeman, Wm W 07	Knapp, Charles 07	Peterson, Deforest 06	Shine, Robert 07	Wik, Henry 07
DeMaria, Frank 07	Gjesvold, Wallace 06	Knudson, Wilma	Pfaff, Bary 07	Smith, Roger 07	Zimmerman, Duane 07

A note from Secretary Treasurer: If the '06 and '07 AWOLS do not pay by 1 March 2009, they will be dropped.

If the '08 members do not pay before June 2009, they will be dropped.

Please send your dues to Patricia Drona. P.O.Box 192. Sanborn, ND 58480.

Last Roll Call

164th Infantry Regiment

As Known on 15 Sep 2008

Janus Acampora (WWII), Reg't Hqs Co, 3 Jun 08
Byron Barney Burdette (WWII), Co A, 6 Aug 08
Col (ret) Richard Cohen (WWII), Co P, 6 Jul 08
Charles E. Delaney, (WWII), Anti-Tank Co, 22 Mar 02
Russell R. Elvrum, (WWII), Co B, 26 Jul 08
A. Ray Gibbens (K), Svc Co, 20 Dec 07
Thomas J. Fischer (WWII), Co B, 11 Jan 08
Edward Merton Fox (WWII), Co K, 26 Aug 08
Willard Korsmo (K), Reg't Hqs Co, 14 Jun 08
Dave Winkler (K), Co G, 22 Aug 08



Janus Acampora, "Mr. Fun Sunday", 91, died peacefully 3 Jun 08 at his home in NY. He served with the 164th Hqs Co in as a radio operator. His awards include Combat Infantry Badge Asiatic Pacific Campaign w/3 battle stars & 1 Arrow (assault landing); Philippine Liberation w/2stars; Philippine Unit Citation w/3stars; Army of Occupation Japan; Bronze Star. He is survived by wife, Christine; and daughter Lynda.

Richard Louis Cohen, 86, died on 6 Jul 08. Richard served in the US Army from 1940 to 1975, when he retired as a Colonel. His service included tours in the Pacific during World War II and in Korea. He was awarded the Silver Star, a Presidential Unit Citation, Bronze Stars, Purple Heart, & Legion of Merit. His wife, Thelma, passed before him. He is survived by children Jane & Robert; & 2 grandchildren.

Russell R. Elvrum, 88, died 26 Jul 08, at a Nursing Home in Underwood, ND. At age 13, he was shot in the neck with a .45 pistol & doctors deemed his survival a miracle. He joined the Guard in 1939, receiving a Purple Heart at Bougainville 1943. His second wife, Dorothy, survives him, along with two sons, Russell & Charles; step-daughter, Debbie; 7 grandchildren; and 7 great-grandchildren.

Byron Barney Burdette, 85, died 6 Aug 08 in Tennessee. He was a Staff Sgt in Co A, and was a Life Member of the 164th Infantry Assoc. He is survived by wife Ruby, children Byron Buddy & Joann, 5 grandchildren & 6 great grandchildren.



Ed Fox, 88, died 26 Aug 08 in Dallas, TX. He received a Purple Heart at Guadalcanal, while serving with Co K. He retired as in 1975 Personnel Director for the VA hospital in Dallas. He is survived by 2nd wife, Ruth; daughters Shirley & Carol.



Dave Winkler, 78, died 22 Aug 08 at his residence in Valley City. In Jan 51, he mobilized with **Co G**, served as a combat veteran in The Korean War, and was honorably discharged Jan 54. He was a life member of the 164th Infantry Assoc, VFW Post 2764, and American Legion Post 60. He is survived by wife, Mary Ann, and sons, Scott & Mark.



Willard D. Korsmo, 75, Reeder, ND, died 9 Jun 08. He was called to active duty with the 164th during his last semester of High School, serving at Camp Rucker, AL; Newport, RI; Ft Meade, MD. He was a farm & aerial sprayer pilot. Diagnosed with cancer in 1994, he augmented his treatments with his own nutritional regimen, outlasting predictions. Willard is survived by wife, Rose Marie; daughters, Lori, Juli, Lynn, & Lani; & 6 grandchildren.



Thomas J. Fischer, 89, died 22 Jan 08, at home in Moorhead, MN. In 1940, he joined the United States Army, serving during World War II in Fiji and Guadalcanal, receiving a Bronze Star. He was discharged on July 16, 1945. He was preceded in death by his parents & eleven siblings; he is survived by nieces & nephews.



A. Ray Gibbens, 80, died 20 Dec 07, at a nursing home in Northwood, ND. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. He attended Lake Region Junior College and UND. Ray operated a family farm near Calvin since 1954. He was an Eagle Scout, was active in the Masons & American Legion, and was a member of the 164 Assoc. He is survived by children, Ron, Cathy, Bob, & Mike; 7 grand- & 5 great-grandchildren.

Charles E. Delaney – See story on Page 18.



2008 Memorial Service

Held during Reunion Banquet

Last Roll Call Listing from September 2007 thru 15 September 2008

Janus Acampora (WWII), Hqs Co, 3 Jun 08
 L. Lawrence Armstrong (WWII) 18 Apr 08
 Raymond Arneson (WWII), Hq 1st Bn, 28 Oct 07
 Byron Barney Burdette (WWII), Co A, 6 Aug 08
 Vincent R. Clauson (WWII) Co D, 30 Mar 08
 Col. Richard Cohen (WWII, Co P, 6 Jul 09
 Dolphus Colbert (WWII), Co E, 7 Dec 87
 John D. Creamer, (WWII) Co A, 6 Jan 08
 Kembel "Bud" Dahl, Co G, 6 Dec 07
 Charles E. Delaney, (WWII), Anti-Tank, 22 Mar 02
 Martin A. Edinger (WWII) Co F, 1 Mar 08
 Russell R. Elvrum, (WWII), Co B, 26 Jul 08
 Thomas J. Fischer (WWII), Co B, 11 Jan 08
 Edward M. Fox (WWII), Co K, 26 Aug 08
 A. Ray Gibbens (K), Svc Co, 20 Dec 07
 Dr. John Goven, Co G, 15 Dec 07
 Pasquale Grande (WWII) Co G, 10 Aug 07
 Paul T. Gray (WWII), 27 Jan 08
 Arthur V. Hanley (WWII) Co A, 8 Oct 07
 Earl H. Johnson (WWII), 29 Sep 07
 Elroy E. Kessler (WWII), AntiTank, 26 Feb 08
 Edwin J. "Ted" Kjelstrom (WWII), Co D, 26 Dec 07
 Herbert Klein (WWII) Co K, 12 Nov 07

Willard Korsmo (K), Hqs Co, 14 Jun 08
 Raymond J. Kreidlkamp (K), Co G, 28 May 08
 John A. Landowski (WWII), AntiTank, 8 Jan 08
 Chris Maier (K), Hqs 1st Bn, 7 Jan 07
 Eliseo Martinez (WWII), Co K, 2 Apr 06
 Norman Samson (WWII) Hqs 1st Bn, 26 Feb 08
 Thomas J. Sheehan (WWII) Co F, 13 Aug 07
 Gordon B. St. Claire (WWII) Reg't Hqs, 26 Nov 07
 Neil A. Tennyson (WWII) Reg't Hqs, 17 Oct 07
 Norbert "Duke" Thilmony (K) Co G, 5 Jan 08
 Arvid T. Thompson (WWII) Reg't Hqs, 6 Oct 07
 Albert P. Vandette (WWII) 24 Nov 07
 Buriel F. Watkins (WWII) Co A, 1 Jan 08
 Allen E. Westmark (WWII) Co K, 23 Sep 07
 Col (ret) Charles Wilz (K) Co K, 8 Apr 08
 Dave Winkler (K), Co G, 22 Aug 08

Associate Life "Full" Members

Ruth Ike, widow of Percy (WWII) Co E
 Noma Kane, widow of Francis (Bud) (WWII) Hqs
 Marguerite Onufay, widow of Frank (K) Co E
 Virginia Thompson, widow Arvid (WWII) Co F



Above left: Francis and Erling Dahl light the candles for the memorial service as President Bernie Wagner, Chaplain Tom Vagle, and Master of Ceremonies Ed Otto listen to a musical selection by a small chorus from the 188th Army National Guard Band.

Above Right: Dave Lokken rings a chime as each name on the Last Roll Call for 2008 is read.





Hi Shirley: I thought you would enjoy seeing this picture of **Bernie Wagner** riding with me in the "Company G" Jeep for the Valley City State University homecoming parade this past weekend. (Oct 4th, '08). The Jeep is a **1944 Willys Model MB**. This Jeep was delivered to the Army on 3 June, 1944. During WWII, over 670,000 Jeeps were produced at a cost of \$700 each. Sadly, only a handful of these WWII Jeeps remain. After Government service, this Jeep was used on my Uncle's farm in Griggs County, ND, as a "spray coupe". We restored it a couple of years ago and it is run in several parades each summer. As a tribute to the brave men of the 164th, the bumpers are marked with the 164th Infantry Regiment; Company G (Valley City). The Jeep is on display at the Fargo Air Museum along with a tribute poster outlining the accomplishments of the "Citizen Soldiers" of the 164th. Bernie agreed that tossing candy to the children was much more enjoyable than tossing hand grenades! Regards, **Ron Martin**, Fargo, ND



New law allows salutes during the National Anthem while in civilian clothes without official headgear

WASHINGTON -- Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem. Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag *while wearing their organization's official head-gear*.

The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed Oct. 14.

The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform servicemembers during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008.

"The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," said Dr. James B. Peake, secretary of Veterans Affairs. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."



THE 164th INFANTRY NEWS

P.O. Box 1111, Bismarck, ND 58502-1111

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to

Secretary, 164th Infantry Association,
Box 192, Sanborn, ND 58480

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2008-2009 Association Officers

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Vice President**Vince Olson:** (701) 845-0500 Valley City, ND

Secretary/Treasurer & Reunion Coordinator: Patricia Drong
Renewals & Reunion Mail: Box 192, Sanborn, ND 58480

Editor.....**Shirley J. Olgeirson:** Bismarck, ND

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